

**TABLE OF CONTENTS
REPORTS**

Director of Connectional Ministries	201
Commission on Archives & History	201
Conference Secretary	202
Council on Finance & Administration	203
Conference Treasurer	204
Board of Pensions	205
Board of Trustees	207
Commission on Equitable Compensation	208
Ethnic Local Church Concerns	209
Poverty Team	210
Connellsville Area Community Ministries	211
Encounter with Christ	213
Russia Initiative	213
Uganda Christian Solutions	214
Witness Team	216
Evangelism Team	216
Commission On Christian Unity & Interreligious Relationships	218
Camping & Retreat Ministries Corporations Committee	219
Camp Allegheny	221
Jumonville	222
Olmsted Manor	225
Wesley Woods	227
United Methodist Men	228
Board of Higher Education & Campus Ministry	228
Africa University	229
Boston University School of Theology	229
Candler School of Theology	231
Drew University Theological School	232
Methodist Theological School in Ohio	234
Board of Ordained Ministry	234
United Methodist Foundation	235
Board of Laity	236
Justice Reform	237
2015 Endowments	239

XII REPORTS

DIRECTOR OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

Office of Connectional Ministries

As Director of Connectional Ministries, I take very seriously the role of the office to be a steward of the vision of the annual conference. It is not easy work, to be sure. But developing, and clarifying that vision and communicating its significance is important work as we connect with one another in ministry.

In 2015 our Connectional Ministry areas worked very hard at connecting in new ways. We developed a new meeting strategy that would ensure that all of our agency chairs were together regularly for conversations around our core work and ensuring that we were working together to strengthen the annual conference.

Collaboration, connection, and communication were important to the new meeting schedules. This year in an attempt to bring our teams together in their intended groupings we placed our meeting intentionally together so that cross collaboration can happen easily and strategically.

Each chair of our ministry areas relates directly to a Connectional Ministry Team. Within that team, work is done that brings together those chairs with others to have strategic conversations about how ministry relates to one another and collaboration can happen.

This year I pressed our groups to think strategically about simple yet important issues of leadership development, eradication of poverty, and strategies to bring people into relationship with Jesus.

From there, the nurture, outreach and witness teams relate to the overall Connectional Leadership Table to provide resources to the annual conference.

You would think it was simple, but strategic communication is difficult. Moving beyond our own areas and our own assumptions so that the work of creating vital congregations throughout our region is difficult work. But we are pressing on.

Our staff continues to make connections throughout our annual conference. We have initiated several new initiatives. Our ministry areas continue to expand and we continue to provide the needed connection and resources to our local churches so that the work of Disciple making can occur.

Our staff is here for the local church. That is our emphasis and our target. On behalf of the entire connectional ministries staff – Thank you for how it is that you make Jesus Christ alive and relevant in your communities and in your neighborhoods. We look forward to being in ministry with you.

Greg Cox, Director of Connectional Ministries

COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES & HISTORY

This past year has been one of turmoil and transition for our Commission. During the year we have lost two major people from our team. First, Bill Waybright, our long-time archivist passed away from cancer. Then one of the longest serving members of our Commission, Norman Young entered eternal life. Our annual conference lost a wealth of knowledge of the history with those two men.

Norman maintained the records of pastors and churches and authored a complete volume of pastors in our Annual Conference from its inception. Along with his wife Janet, he also started the Prayers and Concerns e-mail that began for a few of his ministerial

friends that blossomed into over 1,200 recipients. We are grateful for Dale Reese and his team for continuing that ministry.

Also we are in a flux situation with the Archives Center located on the campus of Allegheny College. The college has deemed that they need the room at the library for their ongoing expansion. At the present time, John Wilson, our Conference Secretary as representative from the Commission and Greg Cox from the Conference staff are in discussions with the college. There is a distinct possibility that we will have to relocate away from the college. They are also in consultation with the General Commission on Archives and History as to requirements for storage and possible sites. All this will have to be done before the fall school term. We ask that you pray for our Commission as we discern what can be done and where we can be located.

As a stabilizing moment, we are fortunate that Dave Grinnell has assumed the role of archivist. Dave is an authority in that area and we are grateful for his leadership with us. We also are fortunate to have Naomi Horner who volunteered to maintain the *Pastoral Records* and *Church Records*, both of which Norman had long labored.

2016 is also a milestone year for several Methodist anniversaries. This is the 250th anniversary of the first Methodist movement started in Richard Strawberry's cabin in Maryland. 200 years ago marked the death of the first Bishop of Methodism, Francis Asbury. Also 200 years ago this year Richard Allan started the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) church. Closer to home, 75 years ago, in 1941, Jumonville started. We encourage the celebration of these events in the past history of The United Methodist Church.

Edwin J. Herald, Chair

CONFERENCE SECRETARY

My report to the annual conference is more of a paint by number picture rather than a narrative.

As Conference Secretary, I collect data, receive reports and edit the material for public distribution. Email is the primary form of communication. In 2015 I composed 1,822 emails. Most of those emails were sent to multiple recipients. I received/read probably twice that many emails. Our goal is to provide accurate, timely and user-friendly data.

I edited my 21st *Conference Journal* along with the Statistical Tables, over saw updates to the *Church Records & Pastoral Records* and crunched data for the cabinet workbooks. In total 5,800 (published) pages were composed, printed and distributed. According to the 2015 *Journal* the conference stands at 168k in membership, 54k in attendance, professions of faith 1,922, \$102 million spent, and supported by 48k households.

I also assisted in the administration of MissionInsite, the vendor who provides our geodemographic data. In 2015 that conference added 68 new users for a total 225 registered users who logged in and downloaded 969 demographic reports.

According to Google Analytics usage in 2015, the conference home page received 121,349 page views. We also see that 152k users of the website came from the USA, 63k came direct, while 50k came from a Google search. Chrome users were 53k while Internet Explorer came in second at 47k. Our /news page was the most popular jump at 24k with /appointments second at 21k. The 2014Journal got 3,323 hits while the Historical Records and JustStats each broke 1k.

As I conclude my sixth elected term as Conference Secretary, I want to thank each of you for supporting me and the work of the annual conference. Every one of you has submitted data or a report or created a statistic that has crossed my desk. The data might be as simple as filling out an attendance card or going online and completing a statistical table. Some of you have written narrative reports for this *Journal*. Thank you again.

John R. Wilson, Conference Secretary & Statistician

COUNCIL ON FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

This week, I was reminded of something I read in a January Newsletter article from J. Clif Christopher, president of the Horizon's Stewardship Company. He made a bold statement as to the purpose of church budgets in his New Year's announcement as he stated, "We are not in the money business. Balancing budgets is not our first priority! ... Making disciples of Jesus Christ is." As I read those words, I realized that even though *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* clearly states that our purpose as the Council on Finance and Administration is, "to develop, maintain, and oversee the financial plan of our conference," and that we "are tasked with the oversight of the connectional relationship within this annual conference," it became abundantly clear that in doing so, our first priority is to help the churches of this Annual Conference achieve its first priority, which is "To make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

J. Clif Christopher would also use his newsletter statement to remind us that as a first priority, our best way of figuring out how successful we were in providing opportunities for new people to come into a relationship with Jesus Christ, is by looking at the number of converts (professions of faith) in each of our local churches (not transfers) and compare that number to what we spent in our budgets as local churches and as an Annual Conference.

We could easily look at what we have established for our churches to provide as an Annual Conference budget through the connectional apportionment, and celebrate that we reached 91% of our goal in 2015. We can easily celebrate that we achieved success in being able to do some great ministry last year. But we must also look at the bottom line and realize that as an Annual Conference, we continue to fall short of our one true goal... making disciples. While the last 6 years have been productive in our efforts towards making new disciples, adding new disciples at a rate of between 1.12% and 1.38% annually. We must also recognize that overall we have been steadily losing between 3.62% and 4.15% of our total membership annually, which means that we have an overall decline of between 1.41% and 1.93% each year in total membership. Your continued support of the Conference budget helps us to provide those opportunities and funds to the local churches to do that better. Together, we can achieve so much more than we can apart.

If our first priority is to make disciples, then we must start implementing action plans that turn those figures around so our total membership decline does not outweigh our efforts to make new disciples. As such, one of the vital tasks before us to look at the areas around our local churches and see how we can help those disciple making stations reach the people that are not being currently reached. We must find ways to provide access to Jesus Christ in a manner that is scriptural and faith-filled. I believe that this year's budget offering does that. It provides us with the stories of how and where lives are being changed, and helps the local church look for those places where it can be relevant and spiritual.

This is my last year as your Council on Finance and Administration Chair, and my final report to you on the state of God's finances in our care. Let me say that I have enjoyed serving you and God in this capacity, and ask for your prayers for the next chairperson of this committee. Thank you for your encouragement for what we do on the Council, and thank you for your support and trust for all we do on your behalf. It truly has been a great honor and pleasure these last seven years. We give God praise for your faithfulness and the commitment you have for making disciples of Jesus Christ, for the transformation of this world.

Paul Ritchey, Chair

CONFERENCE TREASURER

AND DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

During 2015 the Finance, Administrative Services and Benefits staff continued in its mission to support and serve the varied ministry and mission areas of the Annual Conference. We collaborate with the Cabinet, Conference staff, Conference committees, General Agencies and Benefit providers to assure that each is enabled to provide the highest level of support for our clergy and local churches. Our goal is to make the necessary, but sometimes difficult to navigate, financial systems of the Conference accountable, responsive, transparent and collaborative.

We view our position within the Connection as that of a contributor to the attainment of our collective mission to "make disciples for Jesus Christ..." Our staff is positioned to provide needed support in the most effective way possible. To do this, we are continuously seeking the most relevant systems and organization structure. As an example, we have begun the transition to the most current financial platform available to us, integrating considerable online capabilities, the latest software enhancements and the capacity to adapt more readily to future developments.

As the requirements of the emerging healthcare systems expand, we have positioned our staff to best meet the needs of the active and retired clergy and lay members covered by our group medical plans and pension plans. Access to knowledgeable and competent staff members is crucial and we emphasize training, interaction with peers across the Denomination, in other industries and the use of experienced professional consultants. Kathleen Lasky, Conference Benefits Officer and Alexis Soohy, Senior Benefits Coordinator are in position to meet the needs of the Conference and the Board of Pensions.

We are continuing to strengthen the experience and responsiveness of the Finance Staff. Roger White, Director of Finance, recently joined our team after many years in senior Corporate financial management. Together with the team of Sally Bickerton, Holly Sawyer, and Jervais Carr they provide a wide-ranging level of support to Conference and local church teams.

Ben Harsch, Director of Information Technology, is the glue that holds together not only our internal systems and hardware technologies but our Conference website and electronic interfaces with General Agencies. Additionally, Ben supports our District offices enhancing the effectiveness of our District ministry staffs and is an integral support member of our Communications and Connectional Ministries teams.

The Administrative Support team supports our Conference Staff operations and key Conference Committees. Doug Bollman, Facilities Manager, not only maintains the

infrastructure of our Conference office and parsonages but supports the needs of the Conference Trustees with regard to abandoned property management, and our Conference-wide insurance policies. Kerry Cantner, Mail Center Supervisor provides vital support to our communications efforts by keeping us abreast of the rapidly evolving postal system requirements and managing our daily postage needs. Sue Browne, our Hospitality Coordinator, serves as Receptionist and Meeting Coordinator providing a focal point for incoming messaging and by facilitating the use of the Conference office for innumerable meetings and events.

We continue to seek the best, most cost-effective means to serve in support of our collective mission. As our team evolves, our focus remains on our position as servants and facilitator's to our Ministry Teams. We value your input as we explore new and meaningful opportunities to support all of you.

As Treasurer, my role is simply to assure that the best, most competent resources remain in place to meet the needs of our Conference. The credit for our success in the fulfilment of our goals rest with those I have mentioned. Failures and shortcomings are mine, alone. I ask for your prayers, support and understanding as we work together to serve our Lord.

Larry Bridge, Treasurer

BOARD OF PENSIONS & HEALTH BENEFITS

Finance Committee

The members of the Finance Committee recognize that each local congregation has entrusted us with valuable congregational resources to provide for the healthcare and retirement needs of those who serve our congregations. Consequently, our guiding principle is that we must work diligently to ensure that these resources are managed and distributed with faithfulness and integrity. We have focused our efforts in the following areas: the utilization of the Pre-82 plan overfunding, the adequacy of our reserves for active and retiree medical, investment and investment manager review, and assisting struggling congregations to meet their healthcare obligations.

This past year and the start to 2016 have been difficult times for the financial markets and have negatively impacted our retirement and healthcare assets. However, we have weathered that storm and our assets continue to exceed our projected liabilities. Even with a down market, we have been blessed with an overfunded pre-1982 pension plan which has allowed us to use portions of this overfunding to meet post 1/1/2007 pension obligations in lieu of billing the local churches for this liability. In 2015 we used \$2,255,974 of this overfunding to meet current year needs. Additionally, we accessed over \$11.7 million of the overfunding through exchanges with other conferences to build our reserves in order to meet future years' obligations. It is our plan to use remaining overfunding as well as reserves to meet our 2016 and 2017 pension obligations of \$2,252,942 and \$2,298,194 respectively.

With respect to active and retiree medical reserves our current-year comprehensive funding plan indicates that we have sufficient reserves to cover potential unexpected medical costs. Recognizing the long term nature of the post-retirement medical liability, we worked with the United Methodist Foundation to develop a new fund to provide higher potential long term returns than our existing investments. We have presently limited our investment to \$4 million in this new fund.

Recognizing that some congregations struggle in meeting their healthcare obligations, we continue to review ways that we may mitigate the impact of healthcare increases on these congregations.

Steve White, Committee Chair

Health Care Committee

During 2015 the Health Care Committee continued to wrestle with many of the issues surrounding health care for clergy, their families, and lay employees participating in our plan.

Given the rise in our health care claims, we have faced the possibility of a 10-20% increase in our program costs each year. As a result, we are seeking ways to control costs while maintaining a quality plan. To this end, we increased the deductibles and out of pocket maximum amounts in 2015. The only way to control our costs is to have participants actively working to be healthy in mind, body, and spirit. For this end we need your help. It is important for our plan participants to take an active role in their health care, by taking advantage of preventive health measures, such as the many programs offered by UPMC.

We are doing everything we can to make our plan sustainable and affordable into the future. Sustainability is a major concern of the board and we are concerned about the changes we are required to make because of the Affordable Care Act. In order to keep it from becoming a Cadillac Plan we are being required to raise co-pays and deductibles in order to avoid paying a large tax under the act and make health insurance unaffordable completely. In other words, we are trying to avoid going out on the exchanges and continue to have a say in how the plan is run for your benefit.

The board is again going to provide informational seminars for all participants to attend to better understand what is necessary to keep our plan sustainable. Life in the health care industry is constantly changing, and we must change as well to enjoy a quality health care program for our church family.

Don Inman, Committee Chair

Administrative Committee

The work of the board has gone very well thanks to the capable finance and administration staff. We want to thank especially our Conference Treasurer Larry Bridge and our Pension/Medical Benefits Officer Kathleen Lasky for all their work during a major time of transition. The Board also welcomed Alexis Soohy to the staff as a Senior Benefits Coordinator. Alexis is especially capable and a necessary addition to our team to address the growing complexity of the Affordable Care Act and other benefits and services provided by the annual conference.

During 2015 our committee oversaw the restructuring of pension and health care information on the conference website. There were education events in all the districts in the fall of 2015. The implementation of this work continues in 2016.

The Administrative Committee has provided an opportunity for a 2016 retirees to discuss retirement options at a local seminar in cooperation with the General Board of Pensions. These events proved to be very valuable to the participants.

Robert F. Zilhaver, Committee Chair

My thanks to our Pension Board members: Barbara Holcombe, John Mckee, Thomas Parkinson, Bob Zilhaver, Jim Reese, Michael Studeny, E. Steven White, Dara Sterling, Lamar Oliver, Erin Hartland, Rich Pearson, Linda Dinger, Don Inman, Kurt Gottschalk, Sharon Gallagher, Cabinet Representatives: Allan Brooks & Brad Lauster. Ex-

officio without vote: Terry Lyons (Consultant), Larry Bridge (Treasurer), Kathleen Lasky (Benefits Officer), Special thanks to our conference staff: Larry Bridge, Kathleen Lasky, Alexis Soohy, Roger White, Sally Bickerton and Sue Browne for their help, support, patience and hard work. Much good work continues to be accomplished by the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits.

Gary Grau, Board Chair

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Conference Board of Trustees manages annual conference property, receives and holds in trust bequests and endowments, and serves as the Board of Directors of the annual conference corporation (*Book of Discipline* ¶2512). The Conference Board of Trustees is amenable to the Annual Conference to which it reports annually.

Conference Properties

The Trustees oversee the maintenance of the United Methodist Center in Cranberry Township and the maintenance of the two conference owned parsonages for clergy serving on Conference staff who don't receive a housing allowance.

During 2015, a major upgrade to the United Methodist Center's HVAC was completed. Aged rooftop air handling units were replaced and the air distribution and control systems were upgraded. In 2016, the Trustees are anticipating expanding the Center's parking and making the entrance from Freedom Road safer by relocating it further to the west. The Trustees also anticipate upgrading the audio/visual systems in the Center's conference rooms and upgrading the Center's video conferencing capabilities to better facilitate meetings with participants in diverse locations.

District Parsonages

The Conference Board of Trustees oversees the maintenance of conference owned parsonages for the District Superintendents and their families. The District Boards of Trustees identify maintenance needs and manage any required work. Each district maintains a Discretionary District Parsonage Maintenance Fund. The purpose of this fund is to care for routine maintenance needs within the discretion of the District Boards of Trustees. Each year the districts provide an accounting of the use of these discretionary funds and the Conference Board of Trustees replenishes the funds. After replenishment, the opening balance for 2016 for each district's discretionary maintenance fund was \$4,000.

Also, from time to time the District Boards of Trustees may identify major maintenance needs and submit requests for funding to the Conference Board of Trustees. The Conference Trustees prioritize these requests and make awards from available funds.

Abandoned Churches and Cemeteries (Book of Discipline ¶2549).

When a congregation closes, responsibility for the abandoned property rests with the Conference Board of Trustees. When possible, the Trustees redeployed the property for continuing use in United Methodist ministries, and when no such use exists, the Trustees sell the property. Typically, these properties are in declining or rural settings and the aging buildings are in need of major maintenance. This means these properties typically sell at distressed values.

At the beginning of 2015, the Trustees had a backlog of four abandoned properties it was either evaluating for potential redeployment or was marketing for sale. During 2015, the Trustees transferred one of those properties to an existing United Methodist congregation for use in its ministry, and the other three properties were sold. One of the properties the Trustees sold was in an urban center (population > 50,000) and the net proceeds of that sale have been set aside for use to develop ministry within that urban community in accordance with ¶2549.7 and Conference Rule 3.4.7. Also during 2015, the Cabinet notified the Trustees of three additional properties that local churches abandoned, one of which is in an urban center. Therefore, at the beginning of 2016, the Trustees have a backlog of three abandoned properties that it is either evaluating for potential redeployment for United Methodist ministry or is marketing for sale.

Trustees Capital Improvement Funds (Conference Rule 3.4.7)

Trustees Capital Improvements Fund (Conference Account)

Opening Balance (December 31, 2014)	\$ 250,522
Connectional Apportionment designated for capital improvements	18,170
Proceeds or (loss) from the sale of abandoned church properties	227,755
Redistribute sale proceeds for urban ministry development (per ¶2549.7)	(\$223,780)
Clearance of Conference Properties budget surpluses	\$77,943
Closing Balance – Conference Account (December 31, 2015)	<u>\$ 350,611</u>

Trustees Capital Improvement Fund - T1591 (UM Foundation Account)

Opening Balance (December 31, 2014)	\$292,720
Reinvested Earnings	12,832
Net Change in Unrealized Gains / (Losses)	<u>(\$ 22,040)</u>
Closing Balance – UM Foundation Account (December 31, 2015)	<u>\$283,512</u>

Total Trustees Accounts (December 31, 2015) **\$634,123**

The cost of acquiring new Conference property as well as expenditures on existing properties exceeding \$5,000 that extends the property's useful life are capitalized and are depreciated over the property's useful life. At the discretion of CF&A, capitalized assets are funded either through available Conference Funds, Trustees Capital Funds, or are financed with a mortgage or other type of secured loan. 2015 capital expenditures totaled \$352,790 all funded from available Conference Funds.

The Conference Board of Trustees thanks the Annual Conference for the financial support of its work. The Board also appreciates the cooperation and assistance of the Office of the Bishop, the District Superintendents, the Treasures Office, the Conference Chancellor, the Facilities Manager, the Council on Finance & Administration, the Conference Parish and Community Development Committee, the Episcopal Residence Committee, and the District Boards of Trustees. The Church truly is of God and will be preserved until the end of time.

Jim Parkinson, Chair

COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

You may ask what is The Commission on Equitable Compensation (CEC)? As per our *Book of Discipline* we get to have a CEC that “provides for these functions and maintain the connectional relationships” (*BOD*, ¶ 625.1) whereas ‘these functions’ are “to support full-time clergy serving as pastors in the charges of the annual conference”

primarily by: “recommending conference standards for pastoral support... [and]... by administering funds to be used in base compensation supplementation” (*BOD*, ¶ 625.2).

It is a great honor and privilege for The Commission on Equitable Compensation to report more than 24 church/charges have been aided financially to help pay their pastor’s salary in 2015. We, as the CEC, were able to support and encourage new church starts, traditional churches, non-traditional churches, ethnic ministries, rural churches, urban, and suburban churches. It is solely due to the generosity of all of our local churches that God’s ministry through your CEC has been able to strengthen the connectional bond between clergy, local churches, districts, and our conference.

Corben M. Russell, Chair

ETHNIC LOCAL CHURCH CONCERNS

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who extends to each of us the gifts of grace, mercy, and peace!

God has provided many opportunities for us to fulfill the vision, mission, and core value of the Western Pennsylvania Conference. Our work, as the Ethnic Local Concerns Committee, is about creating an environment to transform lives and to strengthen and empower local churches to make disciples by equipping laity and clergy.

We continue to work in the area of dismantling racism. We sponsored a two-day workshop with the Cabinet and Staff in the area of "Witnessing Whiteness", led by Dr. Shelly Touchluk, a professor of Education at Mount St. Mary’s College in California. The goal was to get a better sense of racial dynamics and to encourage ongoing conversations in the area of race. Several things came out of this, which includes further book studies amongst conference staff, as well as blogs in the subject matter. Other projects developed out of the cabinet.

A sub-committee of ELCC, the Anti-Racism Team (ART) also spent a day with her and they have held workshops with various groups and locations within the annual conference. In October 2015, ART offered a workshop on implicit bias that was attended by 60 people. Implicit biases cause us to behave in ways that are not harmonious with our strongly held convictions or beliefs. This workshop was facilitated by two implicit bias experts from the University of Pittsburgh. David Harris, a professor in the School of Law and the University of Pittsburgh and Edward Orehek a professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Pittsburgh. This Implicit Bias workshop provided the opportunity to learn what implicit bias is and how our behavior may be a result. While implicit bias is present in most dimensions of life, as anti-racists we desire to be more aware of implicit biases related to race so that our actions do not have to be controlled by them.

In 2014, the Native American Ministries, was added to the portfolio of ELCC and we have been working to add focus to this crucial ministry. We along with many others from around the country celebrated the 150th Anniversary of Wounded Knee. We had a time of remembrance and reflection at the August Wilson Center in downtown Pittsburgh. Several other programs were developed from that event. We also have made a connection with the Northeastern Jurisdiction Native American Committee and are working with them to continue to grow this ministry and to bring awareness to the plight of first peoples here in the USA and provided funds for mission projects for Native Americans in North Dakota, Spirit Lake Nation.

In December we began to lay out a project with folks from the Evangelical Church of America, (ELCA), one of the denominations that we are in full communion with, to develop a project geared towards working with youth from our two denominations in the area of anti-racism. Leaders from both parties see this as important work and thus an area of focus. There are ongoing meetings planned.

Because the local church is the primary place where disciples are made, we offered grants to racial ethnic minority congregations. These grants funded opportunities for lay leadership development, outreach opportunities to the community, technology to enhance media in worship, as well music materials.

We also funded a spiritual retreat for racial ethnic clergy led by Marilyn Thornton, form UM Publishing House. It provided an opportunity for directed conversation and spiritual direction.

We continue to offer a comprehensive approach for carrying out our responsibilities.

William B. Meekins, Jr & Robert A. Wilson, Co-Chairs

POVERTY TEAM

...”and when James and Cephas and John, who were acknowledged pillars, recognized the grace that had been given to me, they gave to Barnabas and me the right hand of fellowship, agreeing that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.¹⁰They asked only one thing, that we remember the poor, which was actually what I was eager to do.” Galatians 2:9-10

As the Poverty Team has grown in its awareness and commitment to alleviate poverty throughout Western Pennsylvania, this has been a very hope-filled and heart-warming year. We have 12 active and committed members of the team which represent 7 of the 11 districts. One of our goals is to grow until we have representatives from each district who have a heart for and a commitment to alleviating the poverty in our communities and rural areas.

During 2015 we were able to distribute all our funding budgeted to churches and collaborations of churches in communities within the conference. This included, but is not limited to, events such as community feeding programs, assisting in publishing a handbook for a prison ministry, CIRCLES and BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY Programs, homeless programs and supports for Connellsville Community Ministries and Erie Alliance, a new mission project in Greensburg, Somerset Mobile Food Bank, back pack programs, food pantries, and various other efforts by our churches. Our outreach continues to grow as we continue to get the word out about the needs and the opportunities.

A few major points we want to make:

- NO church is TOO SMALL to have a poverty ministry. Some of our smallest congregations have provided significant assistance in their communities.
- The Poverty Team is available not just with funding, but also with consultation, program presentations, poverty simulations, and resources to help a church, a collaboration of churches or community programs.
- The important piece in doing these ministries is not only the tangible help, but the relationships that are built and grow out of these experiences.
- **Those whom we help are not just recipients, but contributors to our own faith journeys. We have much to learn from building new friendships and solid**

relationships with those we serve. It is a mutual respect and sharing, not just handing out” things”.

For more information, please check out the Poverty Team page on the Conference website or contact the team.

Glenna Wilson, Chair

CONNELLSVILLE AREA COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

Connellsville Area Community Ministries (CACM) was started by five United Methodist Churches in 1974 as a result of a sixth United Methodist Church building burning down. The goal was to use the fire insurance proceeds to form a ministry to the elderly as a beginning point and to branch out in broader ministries in the community dealing with youth, general community needs, following the lead of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The ministry would be ecumenical and available to everyone without regard to denominational or congregational ties.

Over 42 years CACM has strived to follow the lead of our Lord, Jesus Christ and has evolved into a vibrant ecumenical ministry serving the needy throughout the Connellsville Area School District. As needs and community situations have changed the ministry has modified the way it does ministry in the community to meet these changing needs and situations.

The mission statement for CACM guides the direction of the ministry:

Connellsville Area Community Ministries is an extension of the church to all hurting people needing support in life’s development and the struggle to obtain justice and a healthful life grounded in God’s Love.

We serve the Connellsville area through the following ministries:

Food Pantry CACM operates the largest food pantry in Fayette County. We served as many as 600 families per month during the peak season. We are supplied through Fayette County Community Action and supplemented through individuals, churches and local businesses.

Crisis Ministry This encompasses many crisis situations. We assist with utility shut off notices including electric, water and gas. Auto assistance includes gas and vehicle repairs. Furniture assistance provides gently used or new furniture, appliances, household items and clothing.

Circles - Connellsville Area With a shared vision and commitment to making a positive difference in the community, Connellsville Area Community Ministries, Connellsville Salvation Army and The Holy Trinity Conference of St. Vincent de Paul Society formed a partnership to form a Circles Connellsville Area chapter in September 2014. The Circles® model focuses on three key areas: crisis management, education and job placement, and economic/financial stability. Circles Connellsville Area has provided different levels of support for ten individuals/families this past year. This has included weekly meetings, meals, networking, group programs, trainings, and a children’s program to provide ongoing activities that support the children of the participants. We are excited to see how God will use Circles to change lives in the Connellsville area and Fayette County.

Care & Share Boutique is our clothing boutique that accepts donations of clothing, household items, furniture and appliances. These items are either sold or used in our Crisis programs and given away to families in need who have experienced a loss beyond their control. In 2015 the boutique generated over \$100,000 in sales to help fund the ministry. This is one third of our annual budget. CACM distributed 530 free winter coats during November and December 2015.

PUMP (People Under Mission to People) consists of mission groups that come to the Connellsville area to perform work projects which include wheelchair ramps, handicap-accessible bathrooms, roof repair, painting, etc. Work is performed for qualifying poor or low income families or individuals. Groups can be local or from anywhere in the United States.

Our Medical Equipment Ministry was founded by the United Methodist Men and lends medical equipment to those who are unable to afford it or only need it for a short period of time. Lends include: Hoyer lifts, wheel chairs, hospital beds, walkers, canes and other medical supplies. In 2015 there were 306 items loaned to residents.

KidCare Ministry began in 1985 and was called the layette ministry. Over 31 years the ministry distributed nearly 4,000 layettes to families with newborn babies. The ministry received a new name in 2015. The new KidCare ministry will exist to provide necessary items and supplies to babies and toddlers in times of need and crisis situations. The ministry is working with local organizations and agencies to meet the needs of those children in our local communities. Items such as cribs, car seats, diapers and clothing are made available to children through these agencies.

Career Corner The ministry believes that we are truly a “community” ministry. We are here to help all local people prosper, not just the needy in the food pantry or the displaced families that come to us because of a crisis. Helping teens get into a training program or assisting a father of three update his resume after a layoff are all part of our mission. With that in mind, the ministry, in partnership with the Greater Connellsville Chamber of Commerce and the Carnegie Free Library of Connellsville has sponsored annual Job and Education Fairs these past several years.

God continues to use CACM to meet the needs and to be an advocate for the poor and needy in the Connellsville area. We could not have the impact that we do without the faithful army of over 100 volunteers who give of themselves to accomplish the tasks and projects that God sends our way. The support of the community has also been a blessing. For the third consecutive year the ministry has surpassed the goal of raising \$100,000 through our Sharing The Harvest campaign. The support of the Western Pennsylvania Conference and from the churches throughout the Annual Conference is appreciated and important to providing the resources to fulfill our calling. Thank you for your partnership in ministry with us.

Chip Rowan, Executive Director

ENCOUNTER WITH CHRIST IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

2015 was an important year for Encounter to share its message with the churches of the Western Pennsylvania Conference. The UMW missional study focus has been Latin America this year. The 2015 Mission U (School of Missions) featured several workshops on Latin America, featuring presentations by Geraldine Truog and Jodi Barnhard as well as Encounter Committee members, David and Beth Stains. Those who have participated in Mission U (School of Mission) have had an opportunity to expand their awareness of the history and culture of that region, but also to become aware of the mission work of Encounter, the many UMW projects in Latin America, and the projects our Conference has fostered in Latin America countries. We hope that this awareness will convert to active mission support from members of our churches.

Other priorities of Encounter in the past year, included a seminar series offered in Honduras by David Stains. All of the pastors of this young, developing conference were invited to reflect on our understandings of the Sacrament of Baptism. Attention to Baptism is a matter of urgent need on the part of Latin American Methodists. On the one hand, the strongest movement of evangelism in Latin America is in the hands of Pentecostals, who often show little tolerance for baptismal practices other than their own. On the other hand, Spanish language publications reflecting our Wesleyan heritage are minimal at best. Even the Spanish translation of Wesley writings, *Obras de Juan Wesley*, somehow does not include his masterful, "Treatise of Baptism." Our response to this situation has been to produce a Spanish language paper on infant baptism, which has been presented in several conferences, now including Honduras. We also produced our own translation of Wesley's "Treatise on Baptism" now in the hands of the Honduran Conference. Hopefully, these and other materials will better equip Latin American Methodists to advocate our practice of Baptism.

David Stains, Chair

RUSSIA INITIATIVE

Western Pennsylvania Conference has worked with the United Methodist Russia Initiative of the General Board of Global Ministries and with the Russian Church in various capacities since 1991. At the request of the Russia Initiative and the Russian UMC we entered into a formal partnership in 1995 with the Russian Peace Foundation of the Komi Republic. In 2003 we added a partnership with the Embassy of Love United Methodist Church, formerly known as the Samaritan Woman United Methodist Church, located in Syktyvkar, the capital city of Komi.

In recent years many members of Embassy of Love entered into retirement and relocated to warmer regions of Russia. Younger members also relocated to new regions in search of work and marriage. Over the years the church had been timid with the work of Evangelism, so few new members had joined the church. The Embassy of Love closed in spring 2015 and sold the building to an independent church. The Pastors Olga and Pavel Shishkin also moved away from Komi, but have stayed in touch with their scattered membership through forms of electronic ministry.

In May 2015, John Flower was one of a group of American United Methodist partners that traveled to Moscow to attend the 2015 Russia Consultation, hosted by the Russian UMC Annual Conference. This is the first time the consultation was held in Russia, rather than in the United States. During the meeting several entities of the Russian

Church approached to ask if Western Pennsylvania Conference might now partner with them.

Therefore, in October 2015, the Board of Directors of the Western PA Conference Russia Initiative met and considered five possible courses of action:

- 1.) Continue to partner in the Komi Republic, with the Peace Fund and Russian UMC.
- 2.) Leave Komi Republic, but continue to partner with the Russian UMC elsewhere in Russia.
- 3.) Partner with an independent Russian ministry instead of the Russian UMC.
- 4.) Suspend, but not terminate, our partnership, until a new Russia UMC opens in Komi.
- 5.) Terminate the Russian partnership altogether.

After prayer and a thoughtful discussion with seven of our ten directors present, the Board of Directors unanimously voted, 7-0, for option #2, and forwarded this recommendation to the Western Pennsylvania Conference Board of Global Missions for consideration. We believe that given the current international political climate between Russia and the United States that it is again necessary to provide a witness for Christ, the Church, and for the American people.

Editor's Note: On February 4, 2016, the Conference Board of Missions unanimously affirmed the recommendation that we continue to partner with the Russian United Methodist Church in some capacity. Flower then wrote Eduard Kheday, the Bishop of Russia to ask for how the Russian Annual Conference feels the Western Pennsylvania Conference could best serve in an ongoing partnership.

John E. Flower, Jr, Chair, WPA Conference Russia Initiative

UGANDA CHRISTIAN SOLUTIONS

For the past 2 years (2014 and 2015) Uganda Christian Solutions (UCS) has remained faithful to our commitment to be in ministry with people in all parts of Uganda and South Sudan.

- During 2014 UCS placed 6 water wells in rural villages in Uganda.
- The construction of 5 latrines aided in decreasing the spread of contamination and disease caused by improper human waste.
- Sewing, piggery and agricultural projects were started to provide sustainable income for families to help lift them out of poverty.
- The 10 teachers' quarters at the Wesley UM primary School in Banga received new glass windows and doors, and a 5 classroom addition to the school was constructed and outfitted with 30 new desks.
- The Wesley School piggery was expanded to raise food for the students and teachers, and to provide income to supplement the school's operating expenses.
- In June 2014 a 12 member work team from Macon, Georgia held medical clinics in the Busia District, treating 2,500 people, taught pastors and lay leadership in Bible workshops, and an agricultural team provided on site training for farmers in several rural areas, and additionally taught hive construction and bee-keeping.
- Construction work continued on the building which will house the UCS offices, and ongoing site preparation continued on the donated property where the Women's Empowerment Center is to be constructed.

- Through the action of the WPA Conference and the Judicial Council of the UMC, \$3,000 was recovered from Bishop Wandabula of the East Africa Annual Conference and delivered by UCS to Rev Isaac Sebit from Yei South Sudan. The funds which were sent by the late John Foster from WPA to Bishop Wandabula, had never been received previously by Sebit.
- Throughout 2014 and 2015, Community UMC donated monthly teacher's salary support for Wesley UM Primary school in Banga, as well as church and pastoral support to Mt Olives UMC and Rev Patrick Isabirye, The funds were administered through UCS.
- Tuition and educational expenses for multiple students (primary, secondary, university, seminary and trade schools) were provided through the UCS Scholarship program.
- Proceeds were distributed to Ugandan artisans, (many widows, single moms and orphans) for their hand made crafts that were sold for them in the USA.
- During 2015 another water well was installed.
- Scholastic materials and food were purchased by a private donor for the Wesley School.
- Sustainable piggery and tailoring projects were started in northwestern Uganda in Arua.
- The Women's Center staff, although lacking a physical structure to work from, maintained a weekly prison ministry and Bible study for incarcerated women in Jinja. Books and supplies were provided to the children of the women, who were in jail with them.
- Funds were sent from Macon Georgia for operating expenses, and bricks to expand the Bwakama School in Busia.
- Durable, commercial grade tents were purchased to be used for evangelism crusades and the mobile medical clinics.
- Evangelism crusades and youth rallies were conducted frequently by the Mt Olives congregation in different parts of Uganda, which resulted in new church starts.
- In April 2015 a 20 member work team from WPA, Ohio, and Georgia accomplished 9 mobile medical clinics in Banga, Mukono, Bulumba, Kibuku, on Jaguzi Island in Lake Victoria, Iganga, Kiwenda, Fort Portal and Jinja. Over 4,000 people were examined and treated, receiving free medications from our clinic pharmacy. Several people requiring more medical care than we could provide were transported to local hospitals, including 4 children needing extended hospitalization and treatment, one with tetanus, one with severe seizures, one with a severely infected burn and gangrene, and one with a serious bone infection in the leg that almost required amputation.
- Children's ministries were provided in all 9 locations with between 200 and 450 children at each site learning about Jesus. Pastor/laity training included anointing with oil, laying on of hands with prayer, and celebrating Holy Communion took place in 8 of the clinic locations, with around 300 people attending.
- Continued improvements were made to the building where the UCS offices are to be located.

- In August 2015 the UCS Uganda and USA Boards of Directors hired a Ugandan as the full time Executive Director to coordinate the ministries of UCS.
- Career Development Workshops were held in October.
- Ongoing orthopedic treatment was provided for children at the Katalemwa Cheshire Rehabilitation Home for Children
- In December 2015, UCS was approved for a grant of \$58,000 from the WPA Conference, to complete construction and equip the UCS office in Mukono, and to start construction on the Women's Empowerment Center in Wanyange, near Jinja. An 18 member work team from Community UMC, Port Vue UMC, Manor UMC and Charter Oak UMC traveled to Uganda in January 2016 to assist with the construction, which is ongoing until completion.

Nancy Denardo

WITNESS TEAM

The Witness Team is one of the three work areas that encourage collaboration between a set of conference agencies. Our team consists of the chairs of Evangelism, Discipleship, Communication, Higher Education and Campus Ministry, Parish and Community Development, and Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships along with four members at large. During 2015 Archives and History was added to our team. We used our connectional funding to help resource a children's ministry workshop in the Indiana District that was open to the whole annual conference and we enabled our annual conference to be represented at a national ecumenical gathering.

Michael E. Long, Chair

EVANGELISM TEAM

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ of the Western PA Conference. Blessings from your brothers and sisters on your Conference Evangelism Team. We are excited, alive and full of passion for the spiritual gift of evangelism that God has blessed our church with. Our vision is to see the gift of evangelism fully empowered by God's spirit and enabled in people's lives throughout the conference. Our mission is twofold. We have a desire to help those God has gifted with evangelism to discover their call and to develop it so that they can work effectively within the conference. Secondly, we want to help Christians who may not have the gift of evangelism to effectively be a witness of Christ in their everyday life. It is everyone's responsibility to share the Good News with those they rub shoulders with each day. All of our processes are to help people come to a point where they can say, "I can do this".

Last year we implemented a Clinic on Evangelism called "Wesleyan Tradition of Small Group Evangelism" with 175 people in attendance. We had two keynotes, the first being our own Bishop Bickerton who inspired us with a history of bands and classes and how the Methodist movement increased under this tool in not only evangelism but discipleship as well. Our second keynote was Garry Poole of Willow Creek who taught "Spiritual Discovery Small Groups". This method is completely different than how we traditionally accomplish evangelism and has been successfully implemented by our own Ken Wilson who is a Denman Evangelism Award winner because of his efforts using this method.

Our team alternates between a Clinic on Evangelism one year and a Congress or School on the other years. We are planning a Congress in the fall 2016 to not only inspire pastors and lay people alike to implement evangelism efforts but also provide breakouts to give practical methods and tools to give ordinary people confidence to be a witness. We remind them the power is in the message, not the messenger.

The Evangelism Team continues to hold a lay academy class at AC on both days teaching people practical methods and providing tools not only at the class but also at our table in the vendor's room. Your generosity has allowed us to provide excellent tools for no charge. In the past we have also provided Billy Graham's "My Hope" tools to help them present the Gospel in non-church or church settings. These efforts have been extremely well received in the past.

General Evangelist, John Zimmerman with the help of others on the team has developed a series of inspirational and teaching videos called Good News Clips. Money was provided in last year's budget for these and we hope to continue to develop this and place them on our website, social media, YouTube, and other places people congregate electronically. These clips are short (usually less than 4 minutes) and make a point that "I can do this". Several of the clips may be shown at AC2016.

Our team is responsible for certifying and recertifying General and Conference Evangelists. We currently have three. John Zimmerman and his wife Christine are working as consultants and have just finished several months at Greensburg: First with amazing results. Their emphasis is Relational Ministry and Relational Evangelism. They have presented a seminar in the Indiana District earlier this year to see if any churches there would be interested in this concept and several are considering. Lakeside UMC in DuBois has a team of 12 who are starting to research what this would mean in their context. The conference provides retirement and health care benefits for the Zimmermans through our budget.

Conference Evangelist Luella Krieger and her husband Jim, who have been in active ministry for over 23 years, had 97 events last year even after canceling about 30 because of the illness and death of Luella's mother. The conference provides retirement and health care benefits for the Kriegers through our budget.

General Evangelist Christine Rogan was moved to full time as of January 2016 with retirement and health care benefits provided by the AC through our budget. We are excited to hear feedback from churches who have started using Rogan already.

Several of our team and evangelists have held seminars on evangelism in various places around the conference last year. Let us know if you would like us to help you with this kind of event also.

Our team also had the honor of selecting the winners of the coveted Denman awards in the categories of Clergy (General Evangelist John Zimmerman), Lay (Steve and Wendy McPherson) and Youth (Michael Gionti). These are people who are setting the bar for personal and professional evangelism in our conference.

We are excited about the possibility of an apologetic training event targeted at your youth and college aged young people. Statistics tell us that 3 out of 5 young people disconnect from active involvement in the church when they go to college. Josh and Sean McDowell have an event they call Heroic Truth that talks about the "perfect storm" facing our youth; 1> an intellectual storm, 2> a moral storm and 3> a relational storm. Heroic truth helps them to face this "perfect storm" while maintaining their faith. We are hoping

to work with spiritual formation, youth, discipleship and our evangelism team to host this event later this year.

We covet your prayers as we seek to fulfill our responsibilities in the Western PA Conference and thank you for providing resources that allow us to develop passionate disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world through an effective evangelistic outreach.

Paul Morelli, Chair

COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN UNITY & INTERRELIGIOUS RELATIONSHIPS

What is the difference between “doing ecumenical ministries” and “doing ministry ecumenically”? This is one of the questions that helped our Commission to discern our specific mission and vision for the coming year.

The Western PA Conference Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships has a long history of faithful engagement in “ecumenical ministries.” The members of our commission work individually and together to strengthen the relationship between United Methodists and other people of faith in Western Pennsylvania, including other Christian Traditions, Churches and Associations, as well as non-Christian religions. We continue to send representatives and financial support to the Pennsylvania Council of Churches, Christian Associates of Southwestern PA (CASP), Inter-church Ministries of Erie County, and Christians United of Beaver County. We have a strong relationship with the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships through the work of Tracy Merrick. Commission member Dai Morgan has also developed a curriculum entitled “Ecumenism 101” which will be presented at the 2016 United Methodist Ecumenical and Interreligious Training (UMEIT). Chair Scott Shaffer worked with the new Executive Director of CASP, Liddy Barlow, to establish a series of ecumenical luncheons called SPARK Conversations for young clergy, church planters, seminarians, and others. We have continued to live into our Full Communion Agreement with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), including a new partnership between First UMC Pittsburgh and St. Andrew Lutheran Church. Commission members attended a number of ecumenical and interfaith events on the topics of Compassion, Islam, Full-Communion Agreements, the Pittsburgh Interfaith Justice Coalition, the Parliament of the World’s Religions, and more.

As we look toward the future, our Commission will be renewing our focus on inspiring and equipping all of our local churches and Conference Agencies to “do ministry ecumenically.” We believe that the Western PA Conference will be best equipped to carry out our Mission, Vision, and Five Areas of Focus if we embrace the ecumenical and interfaith partnerships that are already available to us. In order to make disciples, transform the world, and ignite a passionate spiritual connection among all people in Western Pennsylvania, we must live into the fact that there is “*one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all*” (*Ephesians 4:5-6*). Practically speaking, just about everything we do as a local church and Annual Conference could be enhanced and strengthened through the relationships, expertise, and resources available through other Churches and religious groups in our region. And likewise, our local churches and Conference ministries have many gifts to offer to others. From church planting and camping ministries to spiritual formation and disaster recovery, every ministry we are involved with can be done better if we “do ministry ecumenically.”

The Western PA CUIR Commission looks forward to continuing the work of “ecumenical ministry,” as we develop important relationships with other people of faith in our area, while also equipping United Methodists in Western PA with the tools they need to make disciples, transform the world, and ignite a passionate spiritual connection with all people, by “doing ministry ecumenically.”

Scott Shaffer, Chair

CAMPING AND RETREAT MINISTRIES CORPORATIONS COMMITTEE

Across our four facilities, Camp Allegheny, Jumonville, Olmsted Manor, and Wesley Woods, camping and retreat ministries offer holy ground for children, youth, and adults to come apart from the world and experience spiritual renewal and faith formation. Summer camp ministries offer an intensive experience of Christian community and invite children, youth, and adults to live the adventure of life with Jesus. All four facilities offer year-round hospitality to retreats for rest and spiritual renewal. Young adults serve on staff at the three camps and are nurtured in their faith and challenged to develop into principled leaders for the Church and world. We are blessed to have such wonderful facilities in our Annual Conference ministries.

2015 SUMMER CAMPER SUMMARY

Total Summer Campers: 2,151

Camper Experience:

Jumonville:

- 100% of our campers had an awesome time at camp.
- 98% of campers felt like they learned more about God during their week of camp.
- 98% of our campers thought they understood more about Who "Jesus Is."
- 98% of our campers made a new friend.
- 95% of our campers enjoyed the worship time.
- 90% of our campers said they learned to talk to people about Jesus in a new way.
- 98% of our campers plan to come to camp next summer.

Wesley Woods:

- 64 campers made a first time commitment to follow Jesus Christ during their week at camp.
- 141 campers had a significant faith formation experience during their week at camp.

Camp Allegheny

- 95% of our jr./sr. high campers experienced God doing something new in their life.
- 94% of our jr./sr. high campers made a first time commitment or recommitted their lives to Christ.
- 96% of our jr./sr. high campers would like to come back next summer.

Registration by camp site:

Camp Allegheny:	770
Jumonville:	768
Wesley Woods:	584

Trips: 25 (includes Algonquin Canoe Trip and ZIM Camp)

Camper faith background in 2015:

From a United Methodist Congregation	1,507
From a NON United Methodist Congregation	474
Did not indicate having a home church	170

UMC Churches who sent 10 or more campers:

Community Harrison City	63	Trinity - Patton	16
Baldwin Community	46	First - South Fork	15
Dutilh	39	Good Shepherd	15
Trinity - Indiana	39	Crossroads	14
First - Greensburg	26	Evans Memorial-Bradford	14
First - Clarion	23	First - Titusville	14
First - Irwin	23	First - Union City	14
Grace - Somerset	22	Knoxdale	14
Monroeville	19	Charter Oak	13
Grace - Oil City	18	Christ - Bethel Park	13
Heritage	18	Knox	13
Lakeside	18	Seneca	13
Mt Olive	18	Bethany - Somerset	12
Faith - Delmont	17	Hernderson	12
First - Saint Marys	17	First - Vandergrift	11
Latrobe	17	Barren Run	10
Central Highlands Community	16	Bethel - Lower Burrell	10
Homestead Park	16	Oakland - Johnstown	10

2015 RETREAT SUMMARY

Summer camp is only one part of the total camping and retreat ministries of our Annual Conference. Retreats are continually occurring at all four of our sites in all four seasons. Below is a summary of the vast impact of our retreat ministries.

Total Retreat Participants: 23,064 (overnight and day use combined)

Retreats by Site:

Olmsted Manor:

383 overnight retreat groups
4,306 overnight guests served
81 day use groups
1,250 day use guests served

Wesley Woods:

16 overnight retreat groups (beyond traditional summer camp)
913 overnight guests served
10 day use groups
399 day use guests served

Camp Allegheny:

51 overnight retreat groups (beyond traditional summer camp)
2,030 overnight guests served
36 day use groups
2,549 day use guests served

Jumonville:

184 overnight groups (beyond traditional summer camp)
5,226 overnight guests served

113 day use groups
6,391 day use guests served

Our structure is:

The Annual Conference

Camp Allegheny, Jumonville, Wesley Woods and Olmstead Manor remain affiliate corporations of our Annual Conference with the members of the Annual Conference functioning as members of the corporation, electing board members, approving funding and approving by-law changes.

Camping and Retreat Corporation Committee

The Camping and Retreat Ministries Corporation Committee will function as an administrative committee not as a program team. This committee will safeguard and protect the rights of the Annual Conference by reviewing mission, vision and values of our camping and retreat ministries, and our four sites, to make sure they reflect the priorities of our Annual Conference.

Our Three Camps and One Retreat Center

Camp Allegheny, Jumonville, Wesley Woods and Olmstead Manor will have full oversight of ministry, programs, finances and operations of their site. Full responsibility for our Summer Camping program will be at each site.

Scott Hamley, Chair

CAMP ALLEGHENY

What a fantastic year of ministry! Praise the Lord! Camp Allegheny is honored to be a part of so many people's faith development. We can do this because of YOU! You provide us the opportunity to provide a place where others can "Reach up and be touched by God."

2015 was a year of changes. We continued to grow and learn our new database. We are excited about all of the opportunities that this will provide us in the future. 2015 saw the retirement of long time board chair, Sue Strohm and the election of a new board chair, Dennis Zimmerman. Our board continues to make plans for the future ministry of Camp Allegheny.

Our annual July Alumni picnic and Christmas dinner theater continue to grow. Our weekend adult wrangler events were well attended with the need to add a second weekend.

2015 saw the retirement of our Maintenance Director, Richard Swartzwelder after serving this ministry for 10 years.

We continue to add activities and make improvements to our summer program. In 2015 we added a mud pit, human foosball and human bumper balls. Our campers continue to rate their experiences very high with 95% stating their faith was impacted, 99% stated they liked the food, 99% liked their counselor and 96% planning on returning next year. We cannot thank the Western Pennsylvania conference, numerous churches and individuals enough for their support of this ministry. We had over \$ 81,000 in donations from over 270 donors. We were also able to award over \$ 24,000 in campership donations so children could attend summer camp. Our volunteers continue to bless us with their time and talents. We once again had over 2,000 volunteer hours in 2015.

Our retreat groups continue to rate us very high on their evaluations. Our average retreat score continues to be above 6.5 on a 1-7 scale. They continue to be thrilled with our hospitality and our food. We are honored to serve some great groups like the local Leukemia foundation, Somerset hospital's Camp Kidd program, Fox Chapel schools, Somerset schools, Shade schools, Tableland, churches of all denominations and various local community groups.

Our aging facilities continue to be a challenge however we continue to make improvements. We have completed a comprehensive review of all buildings and are beginning to recruit volunteer groups to assist with the necessary improvements. We have also contacted a forestry advisory group to schedule a removal of trees around our lodges. This will allow for increased air flow and sunshine to reach the lodges to help alleviate some of the moisture problems we have encountered.

2016 at the time of this report is looking busier than ever. We have 6 new retreat groups including 1 weeklong event. Additionally, we will be collaborating with 2 local camps to provide horseback riding services for their campers.

The Camp Allegheny Board of Directors, staff and I personally want to THANK YOU for making this such a special place for so many.

Dennis D. Tawney, President/CEO

JUMONVILLE

Time sure passes quickly on the mountaintop at Jumonville. It doesn't seem possible that I moved to Jumonville in 1982 to take on the responsibilities of Executive Director. Here we are 33 years later! How did that happen?

It continues to be a blessing to serve as Jumonville's President and to be a part of this awesome ministry. This amazing place continues to give youth and adults the opportunity to experience God's love and grace in such a special way.

Playing drums is one of my favorite things to do, and I love the opportunities that I have had to play with a number of different worship teams for many different events. I was even privileged to play drums/percussion this past summer as part of the worship team for annual conference. A special highlight was playing with a jazz quartet for Jumonville's Sponsor's dinner this past October with my old high school band director and musician extraordinaire, Don Aliquo, Sr.

Just this past weekend I was asked to play drums with the worship bands for one of the retreat groups. While I thoroughly enjoyed helping to lead worship for a men's retreat, it was great to see a room full of men worshiping, enjoying challenging teaching, and seeking how to live out their commitment to Christ on a daily basis.

However, what was most encouraging for me was on Sunday morning after we finished leading a few more songs in worship, for about the next hour, men came to the front of the group and shared their testimony of how God had reached deeper into their lives that weekend. Men shared their victories and their struggles and many shared how they were invited to come to the retreat, but were not really sure that they wanted to be with other men for the weekend. God changed countless lives that weekend! I was inspired to see that when one young man started to break down as he shared some of his fears, other men spontaneously got up out of their seats to come and lay hands on the man and pray on the spot for God's divine intervention in this young man's life.

What a powerful testimony that was for me to be able to experience that moment and to see how God continues mighty works in the hundreds of retreat groups and thousands of campers that we serve on the mountaintop at Jumonville every year. It is so easy to get buried in all of the behind-the-scenes work (that all of our staff perform) in order for the groups to have these life-transforming experiences.

I never grow tired of seeing God at work in our summer campers and retreat guests. This past weekend reminded me once again in a very personal way how the ministry that takes place at Jumonville is still continuing as strong as ever and I am extremely blessed to be a part of the journey.

Blessings and challenges remain a part of everyday life at Jumonville. We are so thankful to for the privilege of serving in this ministry.

One of our blessings this past year was the fact that for the first time in several years the number of campers in our JSC program (Jumonville Summer Camp - formerly the United Methodist Camping program) had an increase in the number of campers. It was great to finally reverse the trend of shrinking numbers.

Countless parents and grandparents tell stories of how their time at Jumonville was one of the favorite experiences of their life, and in many cases it was the start of their Christian journey. They long for their kids and grandkids to experience the joy of attending a summer camp at Jumonville like they did. What a blessing to be able to assure these families that any camper who wants to come to camp will be able to attend, regardless of limitations on their finances. Praise God for the abundant blessings!

Another blessing was the fact that Jumonville received three different grants from the Fayette County Tourism Grant Program. We received a \$5,000 marketing grant for both a redesign of the Braddock Road Preservation Association's website to be responsive for mobile devices, and for marketing assistance for our annual history seminar.

A second grant was received for a \$10,000 capital grant for a 10 station fit trail that has been installed on the trails of Green Cathedral. The grant also paid for new trail markers and signage on the hiking trails as well as a new trail map.

The third grant that we received was a \$7,500 operational grant to purchase a drone for Jumonville and some state-of-the-art computer editing equipment. There were lots of adventures in learning to fly a drone, but it gave some breath-taking footage. There is now a new section on the website for photos and videos from the drone camera. In fact, when a one-minute video showing a 360° view of the cross was posted on Facebook, it was seen by 162,000, shared by over 5,000 people, and reached 320,000 people!

Speaking of social media, Jumonville's Facebook page continues to grow in popularity, thanks to the insightful and inspiring posts that my wife, Jaye, makes on our page on a regular basis. We have almost 5,500 "likes" of our Facebook page, which is quite an accomplishment. We have also reached over 31,000 people and received over 2,700 likes on a single post!

The traffic on our Jumonville website still amazes me. Our website continues to receive millions of page views and updates to the website are done on a near daily basis. We continue to receive great feedback on the re-design of the website which made it responsive so that it can now be optimally viewed on smart phones, tablets, and computers with various screen sizes.

We were also blessed to finally complete the Ron Schuette Prayer Walk which has been in the planning stages for several years. The prayer walk is made up of seven

different prayer stations. It starts behind the Inn passes through 6 stations and ends up in a newly cleared area above the swimming pool, which will become the Gnagey Prayer Garden in honor of Joy Lynn Huston.

We are in the midst of Jumonville's 75th Anniversary, which promises to be an amazing blessing! We kicked off our celebration at the 2015 Sponsor's Dinner when Jaye and I did a presentation titled from Battle Ground to Training Ground... The Jumonville Story.

A Jumonville committee is busy planning for a full year of events and celebrations. A major renovation of the Beatty Museum is underway to bring the displays up to date. We are also installing a Dean's Wall of Fame to honor deans who have served in the camping program for ten years or more. A new history book is also in the works. We are planning a major homecoming event for August 5-7, 2016 that will feature an action-packed weekend full of reunions, concerts, fun and worship on the mountain. The Anniversary will finish with the 2016 Jumonville Sponsor's Dinner that will be held at the Duquesne Club in downtown Pittsburgh. Come enjoy the memories!

2015 also marked another year of significant upgrades to our Jumonville campus. A few of those highlights were the completion of the new restrooms in Asbury Dining Hall, new paved parking areas in front on Martha, Mary & Andrew Lodges, as well as renovations to the exterior of Pine & Hickory Cabins including new porch areas. Those are some projects that have been on our wish list for a very long time. Praise God for the resources and talented maintenance staff that made these projects possible.

This past year the multiple staff transitions have continued at Jumonville. Ree Enlow retired this past August after serving over 25 years as our Director of Program Services. Jim Thomas spent many months training with Ree so that we would have a smooth transition in leadership. Craig Meeder also rejoined our maintenance staff this past August after having spent the last 9 years working in the construction/renovation field. Craig will be eventually taking over a leadership role with our maintenance staff.

Plans were also made for Sharon Meeder to begin training with Mary Meeder to take over the position of Jumonville Office Manager at the end of 2016. Scott & Mary Meeder have both dedicated their lives in service to Jumonville for over 40 years. What a blessing for the third generation of Meeders to serve at Jumonville!

I have one final blessing to share. Jumonville has been enriched with the wonderful service of Charles Keller, Esq., who just recently resigned after having served as Jumonville's solicitor for 44 years. Charlie was not able to be present at the 2015 Spring Dinner when we recognized his years of service so I made a trip to Charlie's office to present him with the award. Charlie has been a dear friend and has helped Jumonville with many challenging legal issues over the years. His plaque read: Gentleman, Quintessential Lawyer, Distinguished Citizen of the World, and Faithful Servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. Thanks Charlie for your love for Jumonville's ministry and your many years of dedicated and faithful service.

Our biggest challenge this past year was a decrease in number of retreat groups and participants as well as the loss of Joni & Friends, a summer camp group that we served for 5 years. Those two things hit our budget pretty hard, but fortunately we had the generous support of our Jumonville family that helped us to end the year in the black.

I am so blessed to have an extremely supportive board and staff! Our donors, deans and counselors, group leaders and guests, and friends of Jumonville make this

mountaintop a truly holy place. I believe that God has given a special anointing on the Jumonville mountaintop. Time and time again, we have seen that demonstrated. Thank you Jesus and thank you Jumonville friends and family for your vital part in continuing to make disciples for Jesus on this sacred mountain.

Larry Beatty, Jumonville President

OLMSTED MANOR

Olmsted Manor beginning our 47th year as a Retreat Center continues to be an active and effective facility for many individuals on personal retreat, as well as to groups across western Pennsylvania and beyond. We provide a quiet and secluded place of rest and renewal for many people. In an effort to increase usage and occupancy, we continue to seek new groups and market these services through our website, www.olmstedmanor.org and other social media sites.

Officers of the Olmsted Manor Board of Directors are: Eric Leonard, President; Jeff Sterling, Vice President; Jackie Campbell, Secretary; Connie Johnson, Assistant Secretary; Tom Ball, Treasurer; and Sue Wilson, Assistant Treasurer.

In 2015, the board of directors welcomed newly elected members, Lea Guiney, Tom Strandburg, and Bill Kemp. Retiring members included Steve Tuell, Sarah Roncolato, and Donna Atwell. We thank God for their gifts and talents that helped guide our ministry.

We finished the year 2015 with strong residential and meal income numbers. Many of our repeat groups returned, as well as some new groups, to use our facilities. Our programs were also well attended in the past year. It is our hope that we experience similar or greater numbers as we move into 2016. Our 2015 program offerings included the following; The Pastor's Academy- "Telling The Whole Story," with John C. Holbert ~ The Spring Women's Spirituality Retreat- "Women Speak of God" with Amy Oden ~ The Fall Women's Spirituality Retreat- "Listen With the Ear of Your Heart" with Carolyn Gorny Kopkowski ~ The Older Adult Retreat- "Angels Among Us" with Lois & Bill Hiles and Bruce Merritt ~ The Church Music Workshop, "How Great Thou Art" with on Howard Moser ~ The Church Secretaries Retreat, "Refreshment for Body, Mind, and Spirit with Donna Douthett ~ "Connecting Polity with Practice" with David Morse~ and "A Silent Retreat" led by Chris Kindle.

Much has transpired since last year's report concerning the Olmsted Manor Capital Campaign. The theme of the campaign is Honoring Our Past, Preparing For Our Future. Jim and Phyllis Willats are serving as our co-chairs of the steering committee and Bill Grant, CFRE, is serving as our campaign consultant. Their combined leadership has resulted in a very manageable process with which we have accomplished much in the past year. Our goal is to raise \$750,000 to make improvements and renovations to Groves Lodge and the Manor. We are now in the process of planning the four campaign kickoff banquets to be held in April. The first will be held at Olmsted, then Park UMC in Northeast, next Grove City Grace UMC, and finally Monroeville UMC.

With the approach of the retreat center's 50th anniversary, we must consider how Olmsted will carry on its legacy of sacred space and Biblical hospitality for years to come. How will we maintain our strong traditions while learning to provide quiet space in a not-so-quiet world? As we honor our past, we will prepare for our future with a campaign that seeks to:

- Preserve Olmsted history by restoring the aesthetics of the manor house.

- Enhance the experience of our guests by renovating guestrooms and bathrooms.
- Increase the functionality and nuance of service by expanding kitchen storage and janitorial facilities, updating kitchen appliances, and providing private administrative space for employees.
- Expand our hospitality by rebuilding the entrance to Grove's Lodge to include more accessibility, a covered entryway, and a more welcoming reception area.

In December 2015, while the retreat center was less busy, Bob Ishman, our property manager, began the renovation of one of the original guest rooms in Groves Lodge. Included in the work was the demolition of all the wall area that exposed the original plumbing, as well as replacement of all of the water lines and drain lines. In addition to that work, the bathroom fixtures were removed and replaced, and the bathroom ventilation ducts were redone. Then, the room was professionally painted, the new carpet and bathroom tile was installed, and then Bob installed the new Swanstone shower enclosure that replaced the original tiles. Now that this room is completed, we have one that we can show potential Capital Campaign contributors who might want to sponsor a room.

Sara Richardson has been a tremendous help both in the Capital Campaign and programming for 2016. She has assisted in letter writing, database management, and other crucial responsibilities. In addition to some of our regular program offerings, Sara has implemented a writing workshop, a men's retreat, a couple's retreat, and a Mini Mission U in cooperation with the United Methodist Women.

We had a record crowd at the Olmsted Christmas Open House this year. We estimate over 400 people attended over the two nights. Once again we saw many new people who were impressed with the decorations and the facility, and others who have come other years who would not miss it. Thanks to Jan Baker and Grace Lennox for their help in decorating. A good time was had by all.

Finally, at Olmsted, we invite you to come away in prayer, study, fellowship, and retreat. We invite Disciples of Christ to come and renew their spirit so they might go forward better equipped to serve. And now, we invite you to join us in our ministry, to honor the manor's legacy, and to prepare for the future of Olmsted.

Jody Z. Larson, Executive Director

WESLEY WOODS

2015 was a mixed year. While we made significant progress in fund development and our capital campaign, there have been challenges with aging infrastructure and a reduction in summer camp attendance. Ultimately, we are making progress in our strategic goals.

Fund Development and Finance

Here are a few highlights that are worth noting. Overall, giving is up 34% in 2015 compared to 2014. In 2015 we received \$223,680 compared to \$166,832 in 2014. The Booster Fund in 2015 received \$106,935. While this marks a nearly 4% improvement over 2014, it was well short of our goal.

As usual, 4th quarter giving was 58% of the annual booster fund with over \$60,000 coming in after the start of October. The Booster Dinner was a large part of this giving total, but another \$39,000 plus came in from the year end appeal and year end gifts.

We ended 2015 in the negative, but have since been able to get cash positive. Our current giving for 2016 is up by an average of \$10,000 plus over the first two months of 2016.

Bishop Bickerton's conference-wide appeal on behalf of Wesley Woods raised nearly \$10,000 for our deferred maintenance fund.

We have entered into the public phase of our Upon This Firm Foundation Campaign. We are currently at \$190,000 or nearly 12.5% of our minimum goal of 1.25 million.

Strategic Planning Updates

We implemented a camp management system in 2015. Partnering with Circuitree Solutions, we now have one system to handle summer camp registration, retreat group registration, health records, donor management and resource management. Eventually all human resource management and a digital camp store will be added. All registrations can occur through our website.

In July we received a comprehensive inspection from Doug Hurt, a certified building inspector. It listed several massive maintenance projects in multiple areas of our facilities. At this time, we have made all of the electrical upgrades in the dining hall. We are currently 20% complete with the list and will be over 50% complete once our volunteer work teams complete their work in April. The money raised during Bishop Bickerton's appeal is going to these projects.

We built a new residence for our Maintenance Director as the previous residence was found to have several foundation issues and was deemed beyond repair. We also repaired many plumbing issues from a previously improperly repaired sewer line in the motel units. The ropes course received a much needed face lift with the addition of a climbing tower and a 600 foot long Zip-line. We also replaced several roofs on our facility with green steel roofs to ensure long term viability for these structures.

We are making a concerted effort to improve our facilities and program offerings. The facility improvements are continuing on schedule. We have partnered with Jay Trainer of Infuzion Ministries for fall and spring youth retreats. These are new events that we are programming. The Autumn Experience was the first of this event and we hosted 20 youth. Overall we have improved 7% in non-summer camp usage. During our traditional summer camping program, 68 campers made first time commitments to faith in Jesus Christ.

In conclusion, we have made a lot of progress in 2015. We are addressing the challenges we are facing head on. I expect that as we continue to make the necessary improvements to our facility, marketing efforts, and programmatic offerings, we will see the summer camp usage numbers begin to rebound.

Nate Greenway, Executive Director

UNITED METHODIST MEN

In 2015 the United Methodist Men gave sponsorships to the All In Men Events by Christian Sports International at the locations stated below reaching over 400 men speaking God's Word into their lives. The Glenwood Conference we held a one hour discussion session about men's ministry after conference with several pastors and lay leaders. We have been seeking feedback from other United Methodists and what they would like to see happen with men's ministry. The new direction should be available to entire conference in the fall 2016. We are designing what is called "The Tool Box" it's a

one stop shop for pastors and men looking to start/enhance men's ministry, mission/service projects, calendar of events, resources with small paragraph about each resource and website link, prayer and social media. A website will be designed with all information for men's ministry and kept current with new ideas and information.

February 6-8, 2015	Jumonville Weekend
March 6-8, 2015	Camp Allegheny Weekend
March 21, 2015	H-Z United Methodist Church Breakfast
April 11, 2015	South Harborcreek United Methodist Church Breakfast
May 14, 2015	Sharon First United Methodist Church Night
September 19, 2015	Calvary United Methodist Church-Oil City Night
October 3, 2015	Glenwood United Methodist Church Conference

N. Scott Grinder, President

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRIES

This year has been highlighted by a renewed sense of vision, mission, and vigor in the Higher Education and Campus Ministries Team. The focus has been on finding creative ways to catalyze campus ministry, identifying those involved in campus ministry, and supporting those engaged on campuses around the Annual Conference. It has been the privilege of this committee to support a higher number of grant requests than normal, and to move towards undertaking two proactive ministry initiatives to further campus ministry within this Annual Conference.

A subgroup of board members met twice over the summer 2015 in order to learn more about the various endowments and scholarships overseen by the committee and to make decisions regarding applications for usage of these funds. Our first committee meeting held in September took place near California University where we began to establish the regular patterns of our meeting. At this first meeting we: began a discussion on revising grant applications, approved several ministry program grant requests, approved and funded the Thrive Conference that took place in April.

The committee met next in October on the campus of Geneva College where there was an opportunity to interact with students and learn valuable insights that could direct the committees work and that could be carried into conversations with pastors, churches, and conference leaders. The committee continued to review and approve grant requests brought to us by churches and organizations for effective campus ministries. It was determined that the grant process under which we had officially operated had become outdated and that a rolling, open application process would more effectively serve the needs of congregations and groups within the annual conference.

At the November meeting on the campus of Seton Hill, several campus ministry personnel were present. Sister Maureen discussed the spiritual life of the students on campus and the opportunities presented to them regularly as well as an existing partnership with Otterbein UMC. Presented at this meeting was a grant request to partner with Charter Oak UMC in the development of their new internship and residency program to prepare individuals for ministry. Further conversation led to indications that there may be a broader partnership possible to develop individuals interested in campus ministry. The grant request presented by Charter Oak was approved at this meeting and follow up conversations have been held as the committee works towards developing this partnership.

At the December, January, and February meetings, planning and reports on the Thrive Conference as well as an overhaul of the grant procedure and forms was discussed and undertaken. The new grant request form has been uploaded onto the website. The committee has joyfully funded a more grant requests than usual this year in our effort to be more proactive in encouraging and supporting campus ministries.

Our vision and purpose as a board has shifted to becoming proactive in engaging with partners in ministry, developing a passion for campus ministry, and providing the tools for campus ministry to occur throughout the annual conference. The work of this committee has been diligent, forward thinking, and oriented towards participation in ongoing patterns of disciple making during the formative years of young adults.

Nathan W. Carlson, Chair

AFRICA UNIVERSITY

More than 6,200 alumni. Fifteen hundred full-time students from 26 African countries. More than 750 continuing education or part-time students. Students from all three United Methodist African central conferences. Graduates working in more than 30 countries.

That's Africa University.

For 24 years, Africa University has nurtured principled, effective and ethically and spiritually grounded leaders for the church and the world. We are grateful for your conference's investment in the Africa University Fund in 2015. Thank you!

Who is the "typical" Africa University graduate? That's a tough question. Our alumni serve their communities and the world as college and seminary presidents, faculty members, district superintendents, communicators, hospital and clinic managers, farmers and agricultural workers, peace-building advocates and much more. Your gifts are essential.

Please continue to invest in and make a difference through Africa University. Set a goal of increasing your conference's engagement and support. Most importantly, pray for Africa University.

Grateful for your commitment to Africa University,
Bishop Marcus Matthews Interim Chairman, Africa University Board of Directors

BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Greetings in the Spirit of Jesus Christ! The Boston University School of Theology (STH) walks with you on the journey of discipleship, seeking to love God and to love our neighbors with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength. Thank you for your prayers that inspire and support the STH mission to love God, build knowledge, and equip leaders for the church and society.

NEWS

- *New faculty*: This year, Boston University welcomed new faculty in ethics, psychology, theologies of spirituality, comparative theology, church renewal, Black church leadership, and mission studies. We welcomed: Nimi Wariboko (Walter G. Muelder Professor of Social Ethics); David Decosimo (Theology); Theodore Hickman-Maynard (Evangelism and Church Renewal); Andrea Hollingsworth (Theology); Barbod Salimi (Psychology and Peace Studies); and

Daryl Ireland (Associate Director of the Center for Global Christianity and Mission).

- *Spiritual life*: STH continued to expand and deepen its spiritual life program, led by Charlene Zuill, Spiritual Life Coordinator and United Methodist elder. Bishop Susan Hassinger, Claire Wolfeich, and many others also offer a rich selection of courses in spirituality and leadership.
- *Chaplaincy track*: STH added a chaplaincy track to the MDiv degree, preparing students for hospitals, prisons, and military settings.

ENGAGING IN DIALOGUE: STH spent much energy this year in hard conversations on violence, racism, and injustice, seeking to be honest and vigorously open to change, while honoring the dignity of all individuals.

- *Power, Privilege and Prophetic Witness* is the STH theme for 2015-2017. We engaged the theme in classes, lectures, retreats, and workshops, seeking to stretch our capacities to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.
- Examining the intersection of theology and race. The opportunities this year included: a brilliant new documentary on North Korea; a dialogical viewing of Selma; dialogues on racism with Thandeka and Andrew Sung Park; a retreat on building race relations; circle worship; a student-led event *Missing Voices, Daunting Choices: The Erasure of Black Women in Black American Movements*; and events on interfaith understanding.

CARING FOR THE CHURCH through leadership and service.

- *Serving The United Methodist Church*. Students served local churches and church bodies as interns, staff, and volunteers. Faculty served with such bodies as: United Methodist Women, World Methodist Council, Ministry Study Commission, Women of Color Scholars and Mentors program, Pan Methodist Commission on Children in Poverty, and boards and agencies of the general church and annual conferences.
- *Empowering young Latino/a leaders*. Young leaders gathered with seasoned mentors to enhance their gifts and service as Christian leaders: Hispanic Youth Leadership Initiative (HYLA) and Raíces Latinas Leadership Institute
- *Facilitating dialogues on church renewal*. We launched a new initiative on Evangelism and Church Renewal.
- *Reflecting on worship*. We contributed to a special issue of *Worship Arts Magazine*, edited and written by STH faculty, alumni/ae, and students, and published by the Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts.

CARING FOR THE WORLD

- *Offering opportunities for engaged learning*. Opportunities included the Doctor of Ministry program in Transformational Leadership; an urban ministry course; travel seminars to India, the Arizona-Mexico border, Israel-Palestine, Mexico, and Turkey (Ephesus); work with leaders in Ferguson, MO; and a travel seminar for UMC clergywomen to Cuba, co-sponsored by GBHEM and STH.
- *Collaborating with the global church*. Collaborations included sponsorship of the *Dictionary of African Christian Biography*; events and art exhibits on local and global ecology; and dialogues with global church leaders.

As we at STH seek to be faithful and to partner with you in ministry, we give thanks for your witness. Thank you too for your continuing inspiration and contributions to our shared journey.

Mary Elizabeth Moore, Dean of Boston University School of Theology

CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

For more than 100 years, Candler School of Theology at Emory University has prepared real people to make a real difference in the real world. Since our founding in 1914, over 10,000 students have graduated from Candler, where they have been shaped as Christian leaders who put faith and love into action, transforming the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

One of 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, Candler is also one of seven graduate professional schools of Emory University, a top-tier research institution offering extensive resources and a rich context for study. Our location in Atlanta provides a learning environment that reflects the highly diverse communities of the 21st century. Simply put, there is no better place for ministry preparation that addresses our major denominational priorities: developing leaders, starting and growing churches, ministry with the poor, and improving global health.

In order to keep pace with the needs of the church and the world, Candler now offers 17 degrees: seven single degrees and ten dual degrees pairing theology with bioethics, business, development practice, law, public health, or social work. One of our newest degrees is a retooled Doctor of Ministry that is 90 percent online, so students can remain in their places of ministry as they study—and apply what they learn in real time. We've also partnered with the University of Georgia's School of Social Work to create an MDiv/MSW where students learn to maximize their effectiveness by combining pastoral skills such as spiritual counseling with social work practices such as family therapy and community assessment.

Our student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful. 466 students are enrolled, with 48 percent women, 34 percent people of color (U.S.), and a median age of 29. Students represent 44 denominations, with 51 percent coming from the Methodist family. 82 percent of students are seeking a degree to prepare them as ministry professionals.

Candler has a deep commitment to alleviating student debt and employs a multi-pronged approach to tackle this issue. In 2015-2016, we awarded nearly \$5.5 million in Candler scholarships, with 92 percent of MDiv students and 84 percent of all students receiving support. And our comprehensive financial literacy program teaches money management skills that serve our students now and will continue to serve them—and the churches they serve—well into the future.

At the end of the 2015-2016 academic year, Candler says goodbye and Godspeed to a handful of noted faculty as they retire: Barbara Day Miller, Luke Timothy Johnson, Steve Tipton, and Bishop Woodie White. Yet even as these legends take their leave after distinguished careers of scholarship and service, we look forward to welcoming a new crop of scholar-leaders who will join us in the coming months and grow with us in the coming years. We are especially pleased to welcome Bishop Larry Goodpaster, who will join the faculty as bishop-in-residence in the fall 2016.

Candler draws considerable strength and inspiration from its relationship with The United Methodist Church. Our ability to fulfill our mission of educating faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries in the world depends upon your support, gifts, and prayers. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this vital ministry in the life of our denomination. Visit us in person in Atlanta or online at candler.emory.edu to see firsthand how Candler prepares real people to make a real difference in the real world.

Jan Love, Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics

DREW UNIVERSITY THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL

A Cohering Vision: Curriculum, Community, Co-Curricular Initiatives

After much collaborative discussion, discernment, and evaluation of the current state of theological education, those of us who lead, teach, and support Drew Theological School have launched on an ambitious course. Nearly 150 years after our founding, we envision a future as bright as the best eras in our past. I am pleased to share with you here the concrete steps we have taken—and are taking—to bring this future to light.

First, our efforts have been attentive to the history of Drew, in particular its Methodist roots, its long commitment to the Church and its ministries, and draw from this wellspring for inspiration and direction. Also, we have honored our progress to achieve denominational, ethnic, gender, and racial diversity in our faculty and student body. This rich diversity has become both a hallmark of Drew and an expansion of our wellspring. Forces beyond our campus—notably, that the reasons for pursuing a theological education and expected outcomes are shifting dramatically—further press the need for us to align our vision and its supporting systems with our communal reality.

Given this imperative, we are focused on the three “C’s” of our cohering vision: redesigning our curriculum, strengthening our community of learning, and deepening training through revived co-curricular initiatives. These three aspects of a Drew Theological School education will work together to enable us to empower creative thought and courageous action to advance justice, peace, and love of God, neighbor, and the earth—as well as uniquely position us to lead evolving expressions of Christianity.

Designing distinct pathways from curriculum to vocation

To remain meaningful and offer the greatest value to our students, each of the six degree paths that we offer must be as distinct as the ministry to which it leads. For example, our Master of Arts in Ministry program, which forms students for the broadest spectrum of theologically-informed advocacy and ministry, or our DMin program, which has become the “new” terminal vocational degree, must be custom rebuilt for current and emerging student needs and outcomes. This also holds true for our Master of Arts, Master of Sacred Theology, PhD, and, most critically, our Master of Divinity programs.

We have achieved our roadmap for curricular change through a period of intentional discernment, which included discussion with consultants, and with colleagues at peer institutions, who led a curricular formation retreats with our faculty; through the discernment and guidance of our faculty, and with the generous financial support of the Jesse Ball DuPont Fund. Our next steps include a comprehensive analysis of pedagogical and technological trends in theological education, enrollment, and outcomes. Our redesigned curricular paths will be announced in the fall 2017, concurrent with the 150th

anniversary of the founding of Drew Theological School and the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

Student experiences rooted in community

Despite the increase in students pursuing their education through evening classes and online enrollment, we remain committed to the on-campus experience of community. This begins with a student-centered educational experience that better attends to the scheduling needs of our students, offers broader course content and availability, and more intentionally integrates vocational or career aspirations with coursework.

The success of these efforts are inextricably linked to scholarship support. Only by removing the financial barriers for students pursuing vocations can we hope to attract and retain the most promising students and free them to learn and grow in community. Related to tuition support is the need for more affordable and modernized housing for those students who choose to live on campus. Together, scholarship support and housing relief will also unburden our students from unsustainable debt.

Fostering innovation in ministry and the work of spirit-filled justice

To round out changes in our curriculum and on-campus learning experiences, we are also reviving co-curricular initiatives. The existing Center for Lifelong Learning will be recast as the new Center for Innovation and Leadership in Ministry and serve students, alumni, and others seeking to find creative and courageous approaches to revitalizing ministry. Here, programming will train pastoral leaders, in particular, for service in rapidly changing church environments, as well as position them to lead fearlessly and prophetically.

Our second co-curricular center will be an expansion of the current Communities of Shalom. This initiative will focus on action, advocacy, and social justice work in both pastoral and lay environments. Projects will range from student interns supporting the work of A Future with Hope in our home state of New Jersey, advancing social justice in non-profit settings across the country and around the world, initiatives which seek to transform and end systemic poverty, expansion of our Partnership for Religion and Education in Prisons (PREP) program, and teaching residencies at Drew for prophetic leaders.

Success so far through our One and All Campaign

As the 14th dean of Drew Theological School, I am deeply committed to continuing our long and distinguished legacy. To this end, our vision is innovative, forward-looking, and grounded in the practical needs of our students—we hope, too, that it is an inspiration to the various constituencies we serve. I fully subscribe to the inimitable words of Antonio Machado, that “we make the road by walking.” The road to this bright future we envision will be made by the dedication, determination, and generosity of those who love Drew and believe in its future.

Our vision is coming to light, in part, because of the generosity of our many alumni-donors and friends. Our *One and All* fundraising campaign has raised more than \$12 million to date for the Theological School and has seed-funded many of our burgeoning efforts.

Also, I encourage our alumni to embrace your power of influence to help grow philanthropic support for Drew Theological School. Many of our largest gifts have come from the influence of alumni, particularly pastors who serve in our church communities.

Yes, the needs ahead are many, yet our hope is high for a bright future for Drew Theological School. The road is made by walking. Let's walk it together.

Javier A. Viera, Dean and Professor of Pastoral Theology

METHODIST THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL IN OHIO

Thank you for this opportunity to bring you an update from MTSO.

Keeping seminary affordable

As part of MTSO's continuing commitment to make theological education a financial reality for promising students, we announced the creation of the Bishop Judith Craig Scholarship Endowment. Bishop Craig, who led conferences in the Michigan and Ohio West areas, is MTSO's bishop in residence and visiting professor of church leadership. One in three full-time MTSO master's students receives a full-tuition scholarship, and our average non-load aid award is \$8,600 per year.

Working for sustainable justice

This year offered continuing evidence that social justice and the care of creation are core values for MTSO. We hosted "Faithful Justice: Confronting Mass Incarceration" in February and the Institute on Organizing and Preaching for Social Justice in April. A newly installed solar array began providing energy to Gault Hall, our main academic facility. And the Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development identified Methodist Theological School in Ohio as one of 25 exceptional North American seminaries (out of 231 surveyed) for faith and ecology. MTSO courses addressing ecotheology and sustainability include Ecological Religious Education; Food, Land and Faith Formation; and Dialogues in Faith and Science.

Celebrating 30 years of educating counselors

Over the past three decades, hundreds of men and women have earned graduate counseling degrees with unique depth from MTSO. Our Master of Arts in Counseling Ministries degree integrates psychological and behavioral sciences with wisdom from religious tradition. The second most popular MTSO degree, the MACM offers tracks in Pastoral and Professional Counseling, Pastoral Care and Counseling, and Addiction Counseling.

Danny Russell, Director of Communications

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

It has been my privilege to serve on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry (BOOM) for twelve years, and as Co-Chairperson along with Amy Wagner for the past four. We have made quite a few changes to the candidacy policy in this past quadrennium. Here are some highlights:

We have successfully implemented two programs adopted by the general church: an "Orientation to Ministry" event at the beginning of candidacy, and an "Ordination Project" for those seeking ordination as a Deacon or Elder, and individuals seeking Full Membership in the Annual Conference. Each has added great dividends to the process.

The Orientation to Ministry has provided specific information on each mode of ministry—from ministry of the laity through local pastor and clergy orders—for over 190 people who have felt the “nudge” of God’s call. This event, coupled with the number of young adults BOOM has sent to the every-other-year Exploration events, has resulted in an increase in candidates for ministry. This year, we will commission and/or receive into Provisional Membership, 23 people (including 4 deacon candidates), many of them young adults.

The Ordination/Full Member Project is performed by each candidate within the appointment they serve during their provisional period. Its purpose is to demonstrate how they are making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. A PowerPoint report is given to BOOM by each candidate the night before their Full Member interviews, reports that have given the board great insight into the context and vision of that candidate’s ministry. In conjunction with a candidate’s District Superintendent, BOOM teams also now make site visits to each Full Member candidate’s place of ministry.

Group mentoring during the early months of ministerial candidacy is now the norm here. Specially trained Group Mentors engage small groups of candidates in study of the Candidacy Guidebook, help them process the various required clearances and credit checks, and proctor their psychological assessment exams. Seminary students who are in the candidacy process are often “Skyped” into the group. Individual Clergy Mentors walk with candidates as well, offering support and practical advice.

One of the wisest things BOOM has done is to create a part-time, paid “Coordinator of Ministerial Services,” who plans out BOOM interview schedules, maintains all records for candidates, trains and works in conjunction with District Committees on Ministry and the various candidacy mentors, and conducts each Orientation to Ministry event. Given that resourcing the new processes and candidacy requirements had grown far beyond the scope of a volunteer registrar, Janet Lord was hired for this position. Her work has born far more fruit than this report has space to record!

With the requirements for candidates increasing, and with a major revamping of the Provisional Residency Program, BOOM has elected to return to a three-year residency program as of this June.

As this is my last report, I want to thank the outstanding members of our Board of Ordained Ministry with whom I have served over these 12 years. May God’s grace and peace be with BOOM as your journey continues!

Jeff Sterling, Co-Chair

UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION

The Board of Directors and Staff of the Foundation continue to prepare for the future and respond to ever changing needs. They are regularly looking for ways to serve the needs of churches, individuals, and agencies. The year 2015 gave birth to several exciting changes and initiatives to enrich the ministry of Christ through the Foundation. The following outlines the highlights of our 2015 accomplishments.

The year 2015 began with the stirring process of the Board engaging in a strategic planning effort. A comprehensive examination that included a Board S.W.O.T analysis and a survey from various segments of our constituents were conducted. This valuable data was used to measure the effectiveness of current services and programs, as well as, evaluate

and gather feedback for new services and programs to better serve the churches, agencies, and individuals of the Conference.

In May the Foundation approved a Board funded Endowment called the Wesleyan Heritage Fund. The purpose of the Wesleyan Heritage Fund is to (a) encourage members of the Board and others to enjoy the benefits of charitable giving to support worthy United Methodist causes; (b) provide over time resources that will enable the Foundation to respond favorably to meaningful requests for financial help as the Board deems appropriate; and (c) offer a way for members of the Board to personally embrace and demonstrate the stewardship message of the Foundation. By the end of 2015 through a Board fund raising effort a total of seventy-three thousand dollars was raised.

In June the Investment Policy Statement was amended to include the additions of two new funds. An Aggressive Account with an asset allocation of 80 percent equities and 20 percent fixed; and an Income and Growth Account with an asset allocation of 80 percent fixed and 20 percent equities.

The Annual Meeting was held in September around the theme, “A Festival of Engagement” that highlighted the many ways the Foundation is engaged through Stewardship Education, Grants, Capital Campaigns, Legacy Giving and Funds Management. Also, The Foundation’s financial and investment summaries were reviewed.

In November the annual Founders Day luncheon honored Donald Scandrol with the coveted Founders Day Award for his long time commitment to Christian Stewardship and his twenty-five years of faithful service as a Director of the Board.

The long term investment philosophy of the Foundation’s Core Balanced Account continues to provide reasonable returns and a conservative approach to ensure a consistent income stream to fund various ministries. The total of all funds under management achieved an all-time high of over sixty-eight million dollars.

N. James Sekel completed his three year term with distinguished service as board chair. Additionally, the Foundations highly engaged Board of Directors and dedicated staff continue to faithfully serve Christ by providing excellence in Christian stewardship.

Richard Thomas, Board Chair
D. Edward Bailey, Executive Director

BOARD OF LAITY

Members of the Western Pennsylvania Conference, on behalf of the Conference Board of Laity, Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Since the conclusion of the 2015 Annual Conference, the Board of Laity continues to be faithful in their work with the District Superintendents in developing strategies and engaging in deep conversations which are needed and beneficial in building excellence in lay leadership throughout our Western Pennsylvania Conference. The Board of Laity remains committed to holding in the highest regard the importance of strong and trusting relationships not only with other laity in our churches and communities, but also with our clergy who serve the local churches in our district. Our ongoing pursuit is to demonstrate to our Cabinet the WPA Conference Board of Laity Team has the passion and desire to continue the journey in a partnership of searching for the “untapped” gifts and talents of the laity throughout our conference and seeing where those gifts and talents can be most effective in working together to bring the Light and Love of Jesus Christ to the World.

As your Conference Lay Leader, in January 2015, I was able to attend SPARK 2015. Anyone who has never attended SPARK should take time and be a part of a wonderful experience. I encourage you to spend a day, evening, or the entire weekend at a SPARK event! To see over five hundred young people move forward in the direction of being transformed into Disciples of Jesus Christ, is a Blessing! Thank you again Rename Hoffman for your leadership in the planning SPARK each year!

October 1-5, 2015, several District Lay Leaders joined other lay and clergy leadership from our conference in attending the Northeastern Jurisdiction Transformational Leadership Event “SEE KNOW LOVE” in Hershey, Pennsylvania. The focus of this gathering was on practical learning and insights that hopefully we as leaders were able bring back and implement in our congregations throughout our conferences in the Jurisdiction. It was a great event for our Youth and Young Adult. *They are our future and the future is now!!*

During the 2015 conference year, your Board of Laity was able to award about \$6,500 in scholarships. Laity scholarships were able to assist our youth and young adults in attending Spark 2015, UM Spiritual Retreats, UM Mission Trips, UM Leadership Training Events throughout our annual conference and beyond. The Conference Board of Laity Team is proud to be a part of the development and nurturing of Christian Leaders!

In closing and on behalf of the WPA Conference Board of Laity Team, we thank you for your continued prayers and especially for your support each and every time we reach out to you!!

Sharon Gregory, Conference Lay Leader

JUSTICE REFORM

In 1997 Bishop Bashore called on us, as the institution of prophecy, to communicate with our legislators and participate in the legislative process. Since that charge, this Conference has led the campaign for victim compensation, DNA rights, restructuring jury databases, expunging misdemeanors, the care of geriatric and seriously ill inmates, removing both juveniles and persons with retardation from Death Row. We have also conducted a study of the death penalty, *Death in Pennsylvania: James V. Bennett Revisited* (2005), and joined in the campaign for a moratorium on death warrants.

The Governor appointed us and the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus to the Pennsylvania Committee for the Analysis and Reform of Our Criminal System. This Committee made 23 recommendations at its *Beyond Innocence Conference*. This Conference’s Final Report was adopted by the Western Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church as RS 102 of 2008. Eleven of these recommendations have been implemented in Pennsylvania. Our annual Justice Reform Report has kept the Conference abreast of the progress.

The Committee’s 2016 *Resentencing Juveniles Conference Final Report* has also been published.

Seven Bills were introduced for consideration during the 2015-2016 Legislative Session:

- HB 889 clarifies Pennsylvania’s eyewitness identification procedure.
- HB 890 allows racist remarks into evidence.
- HB 891 requires the certification of crime labs, and the accreditation of the technicians.
- HB 892 requires separate sentencing of juveniles.

- HB 893 allows certain jurors to opt out of service for a term.
- HB 894 increases juror compensation from \$9.00 to daily wage.
- SB 363 defines the qualifications for prothonotaries and clerks of court.
- 73 P.S. § 201-1 –201-9.2 clarifies consumers' rights in Unfair Trade Practices.

These are in addition to the sustained work with organizations such as Pennsylvanians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, Fight for Lifers, Equal Justice, and individual legislators.

FIRST: Governor Tom Wolf implemented his campaign promise and announced a moratorium on executions in Pennsylvania. As of 2016-04-20 he has granted four commutations. The courts have stayed 11 others. (Attorney General Kathleen Kane appealed the moratorium to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to get clarification of the process.) PADP's primary purpose has been achieved!

SECOND: In 2012 the US Supreme Court ruled that juveniles could not be sentenced to life without the possibility of parole. (Miller v Alabama (2012) Juveniles had to be given minimum sentence alternatives. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled that Miller v Alabama only applied to juveniles sentenced after 2012-06-23. (Commonwealth v. Cunningham (2013) At 10:30 AM, 2016-01-23, the United States Supreme Court applied Miller v Alabama to all juveniles, regardless of when they were sentenced. (Montgomery v Louisiana (2016) 524 Pennsylvania juveniles became eligible for re-sentencing. The Felony Homicide Rule was essentially defeated, and the underlying purpose of our Juvenile Justice Bill (HB 892) was satisfied. On 2016-02-23, 66 of Pennsylvania's District Attorneys met and agreed that they would conduct re-sentencing hearings on these juveniles. Virtually all of the accomplices have had their sentences modified. The perpetrators are being reviewed individually.

Sen. Shirley Kitchen has introduced SB 1147 which would limit any sentence imposed on a juvenile to no more than 45 years. This would defeat both Juvenile Life Without Parole and the Felony Homicide Rule.

THIRD: I was appointed to the Senate Resolution 304 (2014) Juvenile Act Advisory Committee. The purpose of this committee was to;

- a) "Reconcile Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice Act with Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice Court Rules." (This charge was fairly easy.)
- b) "Apply the US Supreme Court's decisions regarding Juvenile Life Without Parole to Pennsylvania."
- c) Study the related issues regarding juvenile justice in Pennsylvania. Under this provision, we developed a much clearer understanding of brain development and maturation. We required that ALL juvenile interviews and interrogations in Pennsylvania be electronically recorded. We prevented long-term isolation of youth by the Department of Human Services. We insisted that the Department of Human Services be reimbursed for the expenses of juveniles placed in juvenile detention centers.

The Advisory Committee's Final Report, *Juvenile Delinquency and Dependency: Juvenile Act Revisions and Review of Juvenile Life Without Parole*, was published on July 29, 2015.

FOURTH: I have become an advisor to Pennsylvania's Interbranch Commission for Gender, Racial and Ethnic Fairness. This committee is primarily focused on the procedural issues in Pennsylvania courts that cause inequities in the system. My primary service to them has run to the juvenile and racial justice Bills before the House, and to the jury

inequities such as compensation. The Commission has adopted the jury excusal provisions set forth in HB 893, so that Bill too has been essentially satisfied. The juror compensation recommendations set forth in HB 894 are also under consideration there. 2016 jurors should not be compensated at \$9.00 per day.

FIFTH: Although RS 101 on solitary confinement failed in the Western Pennsylvania Conference, it passed in the Eastern Conference, and was passed on to the General Board of Church and Society in Washington. Solitary Confinement reform has become part of their general agenda.

SIXTH: The Pennsylvania Council of Churches adopted a resolution regarding the Felony Homicide Rule. The supportive correspondence has been provided to Sen. Kitchen.

SEVENTH: On 2016-05-11 the Legislative Initiative Against the Death Penalty adopted a resolution opposing the Felony Homicide Rule, and supporting Sen. Kitchen’s SB 1147. That correspondence has been provided to her.

EIGHTH: On 2016-04-13 the Pennsylvania Committee for the Analysis and Reform of Our Criminal System held its 2016 *Resentencing Juveniles* Annual Conference at the University of Pittsburgh Law School. The Conference adopted resolutions and policies regarding the arrest and treatment of juveniles as part of crime prevention.

Bishop Bashore’s challenge is being met, the Governor’s assignment is being met, and the 2008 Conference Resolution is being satisfied. We are continuously striving toward the *teshuvah* in Ezekiel, the Covenant Code in Exodus, and the Great Commission in Matthew. One step at a time.

Roger Thomas

ENDOWMENTS (Unaudited)

This report is a complete listing of endowments, investments and special pension accounts of the Western PA Annual Conference. Special thanks to Edward Bailey and the United Methodist Foundation for their management of the large majority of these funds. The endowments are designed to preserve the integrity of the original capital as directed by the trust agreements under which they were endowed.

Special appreciation is extended to the individuals who possessed and shared the vision that funded these endowments which support our connectional ministries.

Title **Market Value as of December 31, 2015**

Discipleship

Camping

Martin Prytherch Memorial Campership Fund \$5,000
Earnings are available for Camping Ministries within the Creative Arts Camp and any successor program.

Christian Outdoor Education \$84,217
Fund was created in 1993 from accumulated funds of United Methodist Outings. Earnings to be used for camperships.

George & Carolyn Bashore Campership Trust Fund \$30,217

The proceeds of gifts received upon Bishop Bashore's retirement, to provide camperships to economically disadvantaged children and youth.

***Gascoine Camping Fund** \$12,665

Income is available beginning 4/2002 for Camping Ministries within the Creative Arts Camp and any successor program.

Conway Trust \$45,024

Proceeds of the former Conway United Methodist Church sale 1996.

Thomas & Sally Bickerton Campership Trust Fund \$3,481

Proceeds to provide camperships to economically disadvantaged children and youth

Hawke-Petit Endowment \$13,864

Created in 2007 as a Gift Opportunity by Richard and Marybelle Hawke in memory of the tragic deaths of daughter Jennifer Hawke-Petit and granddaughters, Hayley and Michaela Petit; committed to preserving the Christian Spirits and fulfilling their lives of promise for the future. All were devoted to the lives of children and youth. Funds are to be used for Camperships.

Elizabeth McCorkle Campership Trust Fund \$5,264

Proceeds to provide camperships to children and youth.

*Evangelism***Earl J. Patterson Fund** \$11,046

Fund was established by the Will of Earl J. Patterson. Principle and income is to be used for Clinic on Evangelism with no more than \$1,500 to be distributed in any one calendar year.

Richard M. Burns Endowment \$9,131

Income from the fund to be used for the purpose of helping further the work of evangelists in the Western PA Conference

Patterson: Pastors Fund \$47,141

Unknown source –Income is to be used for Pastors' School on Evangelism.

*Age Level – Youth***Homer N. Clark** \$7,845

Fund was established in 1958 by Conference Youth Fellowship. Income is to be used for scholarships enabling youth to attend events.

***Cutshall Youth Trust** \$3,205
Fund was a gift of Keith B. Cutshall in 1990. Income is to be used by Conference Youth ministries but cannot be used for the Youth Service Fund.

Youth Ministry Scholarship Fund \$57,956
The income beneficiary of the fund shall be the Youth Ministry Team of the Western Pennsylvania Conference for the purpose of funding Youth Ministry programs. One half of the interest of the fund is to be distributed to the Youth Service Fund for scholarships to any approved youth event, mission of peace, mission trip, or Conference camping program. Scholarships may also underwrite the cost of an event provided that it appropriately lowers cost for all participants. One half of the interest shall be reinvested.

Age Level—Singles

Mark Baumann Memorial Fund \$2,230
Fund was created in 1989 by Young Adult Council and Mars United Methodist Church. Income is to be used for such purposes as are determined by the Young Adult Council.

Christian Singles \$10,221
Fund was created in 1995 by the Christian Singles Fellowship of the Western PA Conference and Mars United Methodist Church. Income is to be used for such purposes as determined by the Christian Singles Fellowship.

Age Level – Campus Ministry/Higher Education

Educational Society \$159,488
Created in 1889, the income from invested funds is to be used for the purpose of awarding college or vocational school scholarships to children of low income clergy. (See 1996 Conference Journal page 605)

Edinboro Campus Ministry \$185,530
Funds are the proceeds of the sale of campus ministry property and pastor's home. Income to be used for the purpose of providing programs of training and leadership development for lay and clergy of the Western Pennsylvania Conference for outreach and local church ministries to higher education.

***Schall Memorial Trust** \$32,008
Trust created as a Memorial to Ruth Zitzman Schall by son Richard. The Trust provides financial assistance to women in the Western Pennsylvania Conference who are commencing their freshman year at certain accredited colleges or universities and have demonstrated financial need, academic achievement and vocational promise.

Allegheny College Endowment \$1,065,125
The endowment was established to establish and support a Chair of Religion at Allegheny College. Income from the fund is to be distributed to the Treasurer of Allegheny College in an amount requested by the Board of Trustees of the College in order to maintain the Chair of Religion, but in an amount not to exceed income of the fund in the current year.

Dr. Alberta Dorsey Education Scholarships \$229,135

The fund was established for the purpose of providing funding for undergraduate students pursuing a degree in elementary education or education that is intended to prepare quality elementary teachers for public or private schools. No distribution from fund is to be made until income reaches \$1,000.

Wesley Foundation \$34,764

Fund was created from the proceeds of the sale of the former Wesley Foundation House in Pittsburgh. Income from the fund shall be for campus ministries.

***Smith Memorial Scholarships** \$243,693

The fund was created by a gift from Andrew W. and Jane S. Smith in memory of their children, Christopher and Sarah Smith. The Board of Higher Education of the Western Pennsylvania Conference shall receive fifty percent of the income of the fund for its use in providing the Christopher Smith Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship is granted to an entering candidate to a two or four year accredited degree program at an accredited college or university and shall give preference to students enrolled at Point Park College of Pittsburgh and The Art Institute of Pittsburgh. Other specific guidelines developed by the United Methodist Foundation apply.

IUP Campus Ministry \$109,185

The fund was created from the proceeds of campus minister's house sale in 1996. Income to be paid to IUP United Ministries for 3 years, then income will be distributed to the Board of Higher Education of the Western Pennsylvania Conference for purposes they deem appropriate.

*New Church Starts***WPAC Custody Account** \$338,147

Fund was established by donor for New Congregational Development in the Upper Allegheny River Region, for capital expenditure only. A portion of these funds are held at the United Methodist Foundation (\$187,891) and the remainder (\$150,256) is held at Keystone United Methodist Federal Credit Union.

*Global Ministries***Consolidated Mission Fund** \$75,989

Proceeds for the purpose of providing support for mission projects as directed by Global Ministries

(The following funds were consolidated during 2009 to form the Consolidated Mission Scholarship Fund)

Rupert Trust; Gifford Mission Fund; Blairsville District Fund**Hester Munden Mission Fund** \$261,295

Fund was created as an endowment from the estate of Hester Munden. Income from the endowment is to be used for missions as directed by Global Ministries

Browning Mission Trust \$67,726

Trust was established by Scott D. Browning in memory of his wife, Ruth Anna Wright Browning. Income from the trust is to be used to help provide mission tour travel experiences to spouses who accompany persons from the Western Pennsylvania Conference who are being aided by other funds to visit United Methodist mission programs.

Merritt Edder Memorial Mission Education Scholarship Trust \$1,635

The trust was created by the Annual Conference. Income from this fund is to be used further Mission Education Events and to help supplement mission education projects (e.g. Mission Ambassador Program, School of Missions, and Work Teams etc.) See 1981 *Journal* page 342, paragraph 2.

Native American Scholarship Fund \$29,870

This fund was created by Community UMC. Income and principle from this fund is to be directed by the Committee on Native American Ministry to provide funds scholarships for higher education to Native American people of our region.

*Spiritual Leadership**Laity***Consolidated Laity Scholarship Fund** \$70,907

Proceeds for the purpose of providing funds for laity scholarships
(The following funds were consolidated during 2009 to form the Consolidated Laity Scholarship Fund)

Renton Brown Fund; Idella Smith Fund; Whetsel Fund; First United Methodist Church of Duquesne Thomas Fund

*Board of Ordained Ministry***Consolidated Ministerial Scholarship Fund** \$1,351,955

Proceeds for the purpose of providing scholarships for candidates pursuing the educational requirements for ordained ministry

(The following funds were consolidated during 2009 to form the Consolidated Ministerial Scholarship Fund)

Grace S. Kreiling Fund; Sugar Grove Trust; North Avenue and Arch Street Fund; Earl J. Patterson Fund; Raymond W. Faus Fund; Ministerial Training Scholarship Fund; Julie Niebaum Fund; Frances Kees Fund; Dashiell Grant; Brookline Scholarships; Leonard Nolf Fox Memorial Fund; Straw Fund; Bunyan Fund; *Smith Seminary Scholarship Fund

Carl F. Koch Grant \$19,878

This is a grant to provide financial assistance to United Methodist graduate students pursuing fulltime theological education at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary to equip them for fulltime ministerial careers.

***Cramer Seminary Scholarship Fund** \$5,267

The fund was created by a gift from Leo C. and Mona L. Cramer. Income from the fund is to be used to provide scholarships to seminary students who intend to pursue pastoral ministry. Funds shall be distributed at the discretion of the Board of Ordained Ministry.

First United Methodist Church of Duquesne Woody Fund \$55,422

The fund was created by a gift from the First United Methodist Church of Duquesne, PA. Income will be distributed as requested by the donor and former congregation for the purpose of educating ministers of The United Methodist Church.

First United Methodist Church of Duquesne Cora & J. Wayland Thomas Scholarship Fund \$48,231

The fund was created by a gift from the First United Methodist Church of Duquesne, PA. Income will be distributed as requested by the former congregation for the purpose of educating ministers of The United Methodist Church.

Timothy Project \$41,259

This fund was established by the Board of Ordained Ministry to receive donations in memory of beloved pastors. Income from the fund is to be used to help seminary students to defray the cost of ministry training and education.

Brookshar Family Ministry Scholarship Fund \$292,878

The fund was established by the Brookshar Family. Income from the fund is to be awarded as a scholarship to a prospective student at an accredited United Methodist Seminary to prepare for ministry. Award is to be based on financial need and a true enthusiasm and commitment in bringing people to Christ.

General Education Scholarship Fund \$1,026

The fund was established in the memory of William L. Chamberlain for the purpose of supporting basic educational expenses of candidates seeking ministry credentials in The United Methodist Church.

*Pension & Medical***Pension Permanent Annuity** \$10,546,676

This fund was established in 1898 for pastors' pensions in the former Pittsburgh Conference. Pittsburgh Conference Funds were merged with Erie Conference Funds at the time of union. Subsequent gifts and bequests have been added to the fund for the purpose of pension support. Funds are deposited with the United Methodist Foundation. The income only from this fund is available for distribution by the Board of Pensions.

Health Insurance Reserve Fund \$603,145

This fund was established by the Board of Pensions to provide reserves to help cover future liabilities and is intended for retiree health insurance. Funds are deposited with the United Methodist Foundation.

Retiree Health Insurance Aggressive Fund \$3,977,151

The Board of Pensions established this fund in 2015 by transferring funds from the Wespath Retiree Health Insurance Fund to further diversify the overall asset allocation of the pension and medical reserves. This fund provides reserves to help cover future liabilities and is intended for retiree health insurance. Funds are deposited with the United Methodist Foundation.

Carnahan Fund \$1,500,932

This fund was established by the will of William E. Carnahan. The income only shall be applied by the Board of Pensions to supplementing payments to beneficiaries of any annuity or pension plan adopted by the Western PA Conference. Funds are held by The Bank of New York Mellon.

Health Insurance Reserve Certificate of Deposit \$310,350

This fund was established by the Board of Pensions to provide reserves to help cover health insurance liabilities. The fund is invested with the Keystone United Methodist Federal Credit Union.

Board of Pension Special Accounts

(Investments held by Wespath Benefits Investments (“Wespath”), formerly the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits in Evanston, IL. Unless otherwise noted all balances are as of December 31, 2015)

	<u>Funding</u>	<u>Liability</u>	<u>Funded Status</u>
Supplement 1 (Pre-82 Plan)	\$106,917,251*	\$72,554,143*	\$34,363,108*

Funds are held as a part the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) and are restricted for payment of Pre-82 pension liabilities, and other defined benefit pension liabilities that now or in the future may be part of CRSP.

*Funding, liability and funded status is as of January 1, 2015, as presented in the most recent actuarial report from the General Board for this Plan.

Deposit Account	\$19,360,309	\$26,772,540**	\$5,484,494**
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Funds restricted for retiree benefits and intended for retiree health insurance. The funded status is also net of the Health Insurance Reserve Funds of \$4,580,296 held at the United Methodist Foundation and the Retiree Health Insurance Fund of \$8,629,329 held at Wespath. See above description of the Health Insurance Reserve Fund.

** Liability and funded status is as of January 1, 2015, based on the most recent actuarial report from AON Hewitt.

Medical Reserve Account	\$3,402,385	N/A
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Funds restricted for health insurance liabilities.

Retiree Health Insurance Fund	\$8,629,329	N/A
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Funds restricted for retiree health and dental insurance liabilities.

Benefit Reserve Account \$26,104,294 N/A

Funds restricted for future CRSP defined benefit unfunded liabilities or other retiree benefits needs.

Carnahan Income Account \$882,119 N/A

This fund was established by the Board of Pensions to invest accumulated unspent income from the William E. Carnahan Fund. This fund is restricted under the same terms as the above described Carnahan Fund.

Endowments

District Superintendents

***Allaman Trust** \$65,650

The trust was a gift of Samuel L. Allaman in 1991. Income from the trust shall be to provide a permanent source of funds for emergency grants in times of crisis to clergy and clergy families of the Western Pennsylvania Conference at the discretion of the Cabinet. Priority shall be given to, though not necessarily restricted to, younger clergy within the first ten years of their ministry.

Patterson Fund \$53,096

The fund was created by a Centenary Fund Gift of Oliver B. Patterson. Income from the fund is restricted to use by the discretion of the District Superintendents.

Washington District \$1,443

The fund was created by a gift of Centenary Fund. Income from the fund is to be used for district programs.

Franklin District Horace Thompson Fund \$7,610

The fund was created by a gift of Horace Thompson to be used by the Franklin District for the purpose of meeting the needs of pastors in that district on Incapacity Leave or in a Retired Relationship with the Western Pennsylvania Conference

Abandoned Church Fund \$140,613

This fund was created by an allocation of funds generated from the sale of Conference property. This fund can be used for such purposes as designated by the Cabinet.

Trustees

Trustees Capital Improvement Fund \$283,512

This fund was created by an allocation of funds generated from the sale of Conference property. This fund can be used for such purposes as designated by the Conference Board of Trustees.

Council on Finance and Administration

Memorials \$1,588

This fund was created in 1992 from a number of small gifts in memory of various conference pastors. Income from this fund is to be made available for the Bishop's Discretionary Fund. Due to the small amount of current interest, this fund is being reinvested.

Conference Fixed Fund \$452,823

This fund was established by the Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A) to support a reserve of 5% of annual Conference budget.

Ethel K. Braun Fund \$356,125

This fund was established by a bequest from the Estate of Ethel K. Brauns. Funds may be designated to any line item in the Annual Conference budget as recommended by CF&A. For 2016, the income will be used to shore up one or more of the following budget lines: Episcopacy (2200), Cross Racial Appointments (3270), Evangelism Ministry (4310), Bishop's Leadership Initiative (6100), and Bishop's Academy (6130). For 2017, CF&A recommends that it be used to shore up the Conference Reserve (5400) and Local Church Audit (5440) budget lines.

Maude Murray Fund \$255,704

The fund was created by a bequest to the former Erie Conference by the Estate of Maude A. Murray. Funds may be designated to any line item in the Annual Conference budget as recommended by CF&A. For 2016, the income will be used to shore up one or more of the following budget lines: Episcopacy (2200), Cross Racial Appointments (3270), Evangelism Ministry (4310), Bishop's Leadership Initiative (6100), and Bishop's Academy (6130). For 2017, CF&A recommends that it be used to shore up the Conference Reserve (5400) and Local Church Audit (5440) budget lines.

Kilpatrick Fund 040 \$474,086

The income from this trust shall be paid to the Pittsburgh Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church in perpetuity to be used for the interests of the church as it may from time to time direct. For 2016, the income will be used to shore up one or more of the following budget lines: Episcopacy (2200), Cross Racial Appointments (3270), Evangelism Ministry (4310), Bishop's Leadership Initiative (6100), and Bishop's Academy (6130). For 2017, CF&A recommends that it be used to shore up the Conference Reserve (5400) and Local Church Audit (5440) budget lines.

Kilpatrick Fund 265 \$679,309

The income from the residuary estate shall be paid to the Pittsburgh Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church in perpetuity to be used for the interests of the church as it may from time to time direct. For 2016, the income will be used to shore up one or more of the following budget lines: Episcopacy (2200), Cross Racial Appointments (3270), Evangelism Ministry (4310), Bishop's Leadership Initiative (6100), and Bishop's

Academy (6130). For 2017, CF&A recommends that it be used to shore up the Conference Reserve (5400) and Local Church Audit (5440) budget lines.

Worthington Trust \$210,396
 Will of Edgar D. Worthington 6/27/67 in memory of Anna M. Worthington (mother), Carrie E. Worthington (sister) and Alice K. Worthington (sister). Income may be designated to any line item in the Annual Conference budget. For 2016, the income will be used to shore up one or more of the following budget lines: Episcopacy (2200), Cross Racial Appointments (3270), Evangelism Ministry (4310), Bishop's Leadership Initiative (6100), and Bishop's Academy (6130). For 2017, CF&A recommends that it be used to shore up the Conference Reserve (5400) and Local Church Audit (5440) budget lines.

Pittsburgh District Kaighin Fund \$18,084
 Bequest of Albert B. Kaighin - For 2016, the income will be used to shore up one or more of the following budget lines: Episcopacy (2200), Cross Racial Appointments (3270), Evangelism Ministry (4310), Bishop's Leadership Initiative (6100), and Bishop's Academy (6130). For 2017, CF&A recommends that it be used to shore up the Conference Reserve (5400) and Local Church Audit (5440) budget lines.

Charles O. Rall Trust \$928,137
 The Annual Conference became the beneficiary of this trust in 2014.

Mortimer Fund \$0
 The Annual Conference was a named beneficiary for the Estate of R. Lee Mortimer and received \$79,569 upon his death. During 2015, these funds were used to fund the construction of the Labyrinth at the Conference Center, and will be memorialized appropriately.

***Note:** The trustee of the funds marked by an asterisk is not our Annual Conference. However, income from these funds has come to Conference entities over recent years. So the listing for this year is for informational purposes only.

Lawrence D. Bridge, Treasurer